JEFF JARRETT'S STRANGE "STROKE" OF LUCK!

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- Book Excerpt: Sid-Arn Brawl!
- 12 Questions With Y2J!

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January 2001

Pro Wrestling Illustrated
Austin Hate?
January 2001

Pro Wrestling to be added to Summer Olympics!

Austin vs. Goldberg signed for pay-per-view showdown!

Las Vegas sportsbooks now taking bets on pro wrestling!

None of these headlines appeared on 1wrestling.com.

If you didn't see it on 1wrestling.com, it probably wasn't true.

FROM THE DESK OF...

HOW PAINFUL IT must have been for Steve Austin to sit on the sidelines all those months and slowly lose the only title that means anything these days in professional wrestling.

The pain before and after neck surgery was horrible. The grueling months of rehab even worse. But to watch The Rock host *Saturday Night Live?*

That doesn't happen if I don't get injured, "Stone-Cold" undoubtedly thought. *Dammit, that shoulda been me!*

To watch *Raw* and *Smackdown* and see the crowd's reaction to The Rock's every word, every slight turn of the head, every movement of the brow. To see him open the Republican National Convention, go head-to-head with the head of the PTC on national TV. The Rock had stolen the title of Number-One Man, and there was nothing the deposed champion could do about it. Except work, sweat, and push himself beyond the limits of normal men. Basically, the same stuff he's been doing since he broke into the sport a decade ago.

Rational-thinking observers recognize, of course, that The Rock did not earn his position by default. He did it the same way Austin did. The only thing that comes naturally to any athlete is charisma. Both "Stone-Cold" and The Rock are blessed with an abundance. Charisma goes beyond your ability to speak in public. Arn Anderson could out-talk just about anybody, but was he more charismatic than Sid Vicious? Check out the excerpt from Gary Michael Cappetta's book, *Bodyslams! Memoirs Of A Wrestling Pitchman*, on page 38. It's clear that in describing the hotel brawl between Arn and Sid back in 1993 that Gary resented Sid because he thought he never had to work as hard as his friend Arn had. Maybe that's true. But Sid has the ability to light up a room with his mere presence. It's that ability that makes what would be a star into a superstar.

The Rock might, indeed, be the man Austin hates most *(see cover story on page 30)*. But he's smart enough to realize that The Rock was the man most responsible for keeping the WWF at the level that it was when he left with his injury. If healthy, "Stone-Cold" will have every opportunity to reclaim the position he feels should still be his.

Millions, myself included, can't wait to see him try.

* * *

This is the first regular issue of **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED** under its new all-color, all-slick format. With a lot more pages to play with, we've been able to add quite a few new departments and features. We think you'll like what we've done, though we're not taking anything for granted. Please drop me a note (or e-mail) at the addresses printed on "Between Falls" *(now on page 82)* and give me your feedback. It would help if you let us know whether your letter is for publication.

We at London Publishing Co. feel a little bit like Steve Austin about now. We're coming back with a vengeance. The colorization of **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED** is only the start. Next month, don't look for **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED**, because on alternating months we're going to hit you with *PWI* (yes, our three-letter abbreviation). Each issue of *PWI* will be a 116-page special with a highlighted theme. In our February 2001 issue, we'll present "The State Of The Game."

And it doesn't stop there. Look for the newly revamped *Inside Wrestling, The Wrestler, Wrestle America,* and *Wrestling Superstars.* All full-color, printed on the highest quality coated stock, all with more pages and in a larger format than before.

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Publisher

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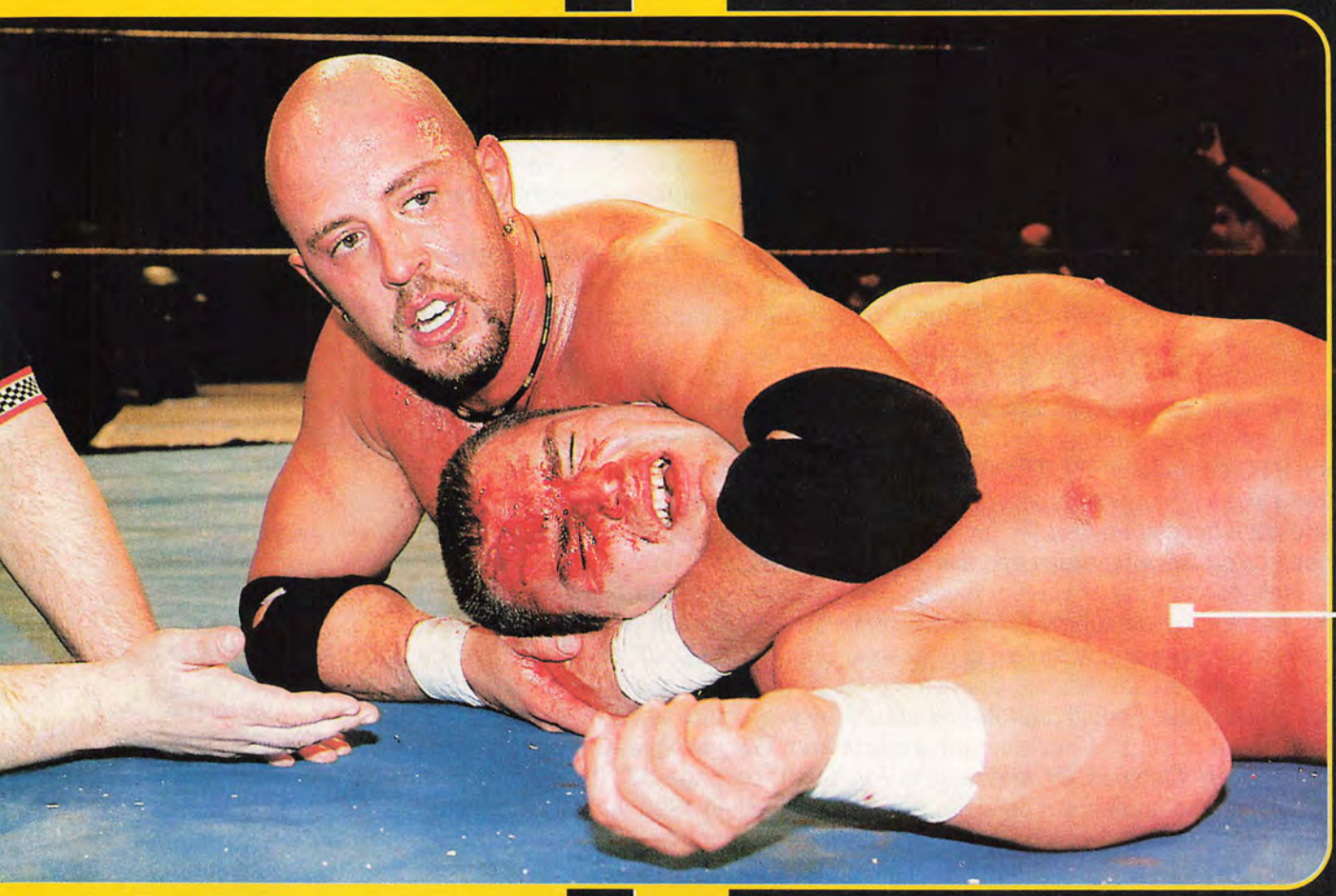

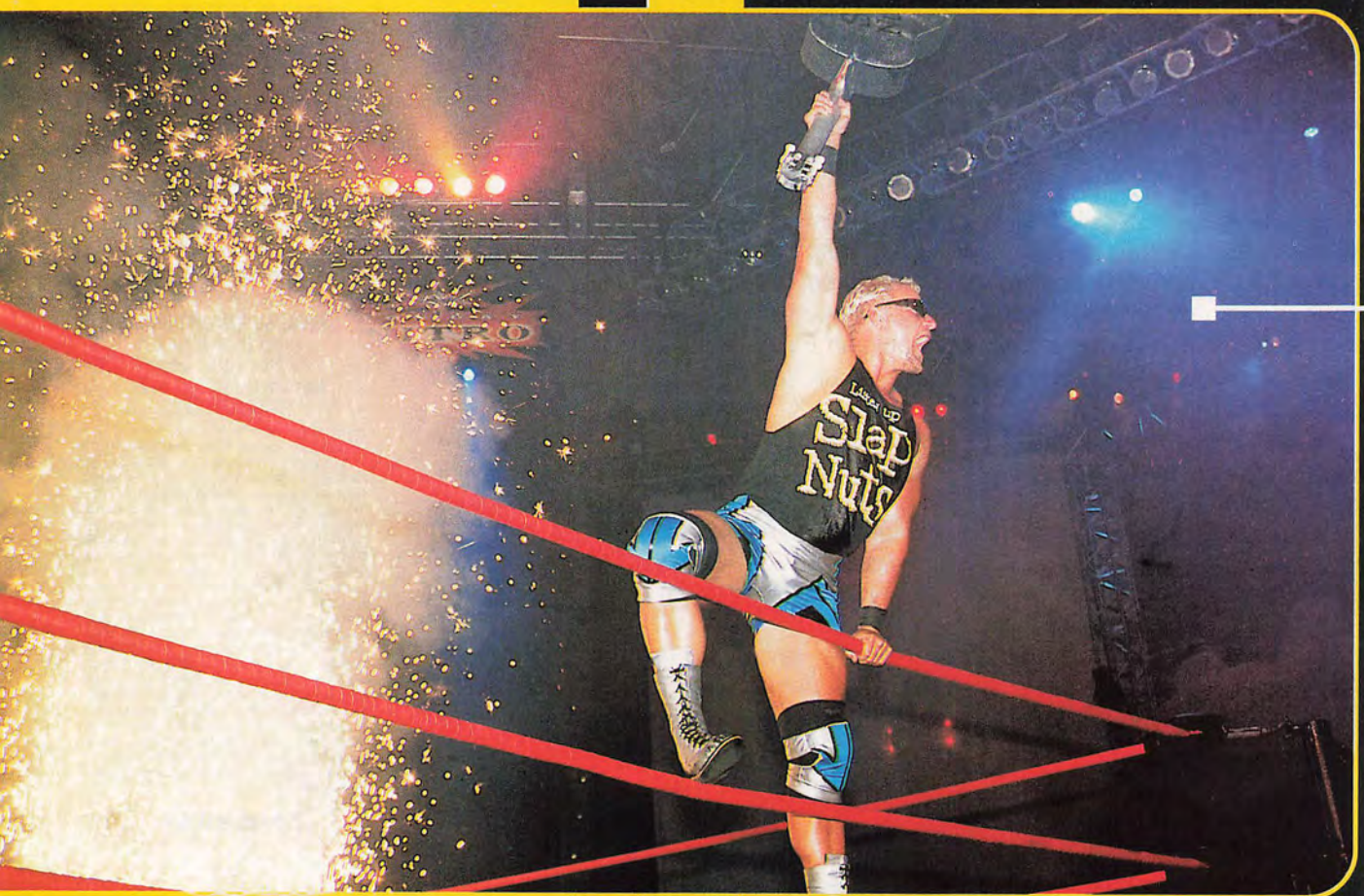
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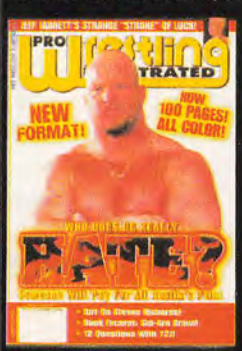

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before the bell

SHOW THEM THE MONEY!

Need one more WWF T-shirt to bring your collection to a robust 150? Looking for a special gift for the WWF fan in your life? Want to help out needy children in the process?

If you do, hop on the World Wide Web and surf on over to auction.wwf.com. Once there, break out the plastic and start shopping. Not only will you be purchasing some highly prized WWF memorabilia, you'll also be helping to make the dreams of others come true.

The online charity auction site, a joint venture between the World Wrestling Federation Entertainment and FairMarket, is the WWF's official auction site. It's where fans can log on and bid on one-of-a-kind items as diverse as a WrestleMania autographed chair, a "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin signed knee brace, and a six-foot autographed WWF Beanie Bear, among other items.

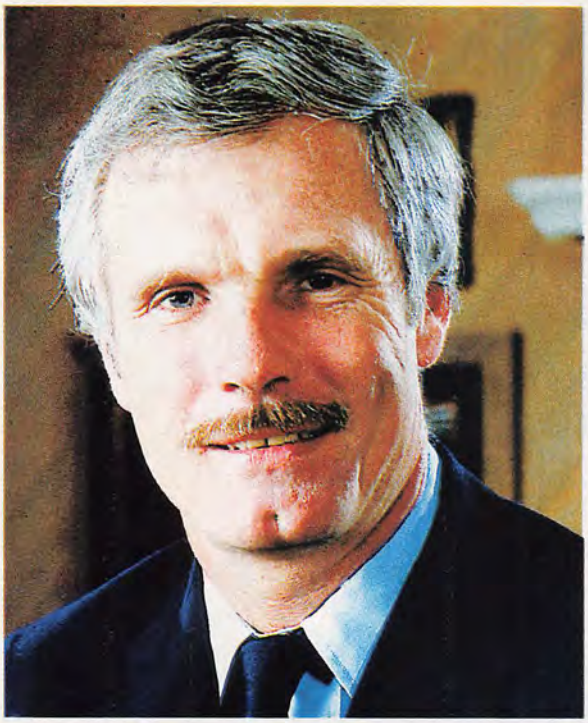
And all bids start at one measly dollar!

On the day our editors looked at the site, three rather pricey items grabbed our interest: a Trish Stratus autographed shirt—high bid: $551; a Mick Foley autographed commissioner T-shirt—high bid: $403; and a broken piece of broadcast table autographed by Triple-H and The Rock—high bid: $352.

No, hundreds of dollars for a T-shirt is not exactly cheap, but if those bids never increased a dime and the three items sold for those prices, not only were there three very pleased WWF fans out there, there were also some very happy children in need, as more than $130 of the total sale would have gone to charity (10 percent from all sales on the auction site is donated to charity).

"We were really interested in doing an online auction to add an exciting new element to our existing e-commerce efforts while giving something back to the community," said Lee Barstow, vice president of marketing and e-commerce at WWFE.

So far, looks like they're doing one heck of a job.



TIME WARNER ACQUIRES WWF PROGRAMMING!

Okay, it wasn't so blatant as Viacom's deal to lure the WWF's *Raw*, *Heat*, *Live Wire*, and *Superstars* away from USA Networks. In fact, comparing the two deals is like comparing the golf course at Augusta National to your local chip-and-putt. And maybe Time Warner Cable's decision to sign a long-term affiliation deal with MTV Networks, a division of Viacom Inc., had nothing to do with the WWF at all. But, hey, we're a wrestling magazine, and if there's controversy to be had between WCW and the WWF, we're going to find it!

Under the terms of the agreement—which also includes a launch of approximately 450,000 new VH1 subscribers and 3 million subscribers for TV Land over the next three years—there will be an additional 200,000 subscribers for TNN, the new home cable home of the WWF.

Sure, it's a minor part of the overall deal, but when it comes down to it, Time Warner, the parent company of WCW, acquired WWF programming.

Juicy stuff, huh?

ANARCHY RULZ— THE VIDEO GAME

Tired of all the cream puff wrestling video games out there that continue to proliferate the already saturated market? Bored with trash cans, guitars, briefcases, and other passe weapons of choice? Want to take extreme to the extreme? Of course you do.

ECW Anarchy Rulz, released to stores in late-summer, is wonderfully pitiless. With original music from Dope and One Minute Silence, two-man commentary in the form of the vocal stylings of Joey Styles and Joel Gertner, never-before-seen modes like the Table Match and Brimstone Match modes, and the debut of personalities like The Sandman, Dusty Rhodes, Masato Tanaka, and ECW owner Paul Heyman, this game has what every ECW fans wants—hardcore action.

"I've played this game, and I'll tell you, it's the best damn game on the market today," Heyman said. "It's a fun game for everyone, including the wrestlers in ECW, because they finally get the chance to do something they've been wanting to do for years: beat the crap out of me."

ECW Anarchy Rulz is available for both the Sony Playstation and Sega Dreamcast game consoles and is rated Teen by the ESRB.

THE STUPID FILES

•We're sure that the people at highfalutin *Time* magazine snub their noses at this publication and professional wrestling in general, but we're proud to say that nobody on our current staff has ever made a complete fool out of himself on national television, as did *Time* correspondent Margaret Carlson on a recent edition of CNN's *Capital Gang*, a political talk show.

During a discussion of political ethics, Carlson, incensed that those in charge of the Republican National Convention would stoop so low as to have The Rock open up the Convention's Wednesday night session, uttered the following insanity: "The Rock. All I have to say is The Rock keynoting Wednesday night, the white skinhead hateful wrestling guy. That's the symbol ..."

Fortunately, Carlson wasn't allowed to finish her ignorant comment, as she was drowned out by a blast of crosstalk.

•No, working as a WWF sports entertainer is not tantamount to a lethargic man's dream, and maybe The Big Show is finally starting to realize that. Having already been reprimanded for weight and conditioning issues by WWF officials in months previous, Show was effectively sent down to the minors when the WWF reassigned him to Ohio Valley Wrestling. There, working under the tutelage of Jim Cornette, Show—one of only eight men to have won both the WWF and NWA/WCW world titles—is expected to lose tonnage that the WWF considers detrimental, as well as to improve his overall conditioning.

As for Ohio Valley, it has to be loving life right now with both The Big Show and Mark Henry on the current roster. Next thing you know, someone in OVW will be trying to convince Vinnie Mac that Chris Benoit and Triple-H have started to chub up.

•When you're a beggar, you don't tell The Salvation Army to take a hike. And when you're a wrestler looking to sign back on with one of the major companies, you don't refuse their requests—unless your name is Jacques Rougeau.

Rougeau, who listed as one of his highlights over the past few years his defeat of King Kong Bundy during halftime of a Canadian Football League game, returned to national prominence at WCW's New Blood Rising pay-per-view as the referee for the U.S. title match between Lance Storm and Mike Awesome. Two nights later, after helping Storm retain the title in one of the most biased displays of officiating ever seen, Rougeau walked out on WCW after realizing creative differences with WCW creative director Vince Russo.

You'll have to trust us when we tell you Rougeau is still in good shape and still a very capable wrestler, because more than likely, the only chance you'll get to see the guy again is if he appears on a local indy show in your hometown.

(continued on page 10)

Pro Wrestling® Illustrated

UPDATED EVERY WEEKDAY AND AFTER PAY-PER-VIEW EVENTS

HOTLINE

HOSTED BY WILL WELSH

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WE HEARD THAT!

"With all due respect to Jesse [Ventura], I would say The Rock has to be synonymous with, say, President."

—The Rock, addressing a group of reporters at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles about his political aspirations

"Let [Kevin Nash] go. You think he can go [to the WWF] and run with those young guys? You think he could run all around the building with Triple-H like they do up there and take suplexes on the walkway?"

—Booker T, to the *Charleston Post And Courier*, concerning rumors that Kevin Nash might want to leave WCW and jump back to the WWF

"[NFL teams] are all about corporate boxes, quiche and champagne, and things of that nature. They are all about corporate America, and that's not real sport. Many times they have lost contact with their real audience, which is mainstream middle-class America, and I think that's a shame."

—Vince McMahon, on Fox Sports Net's *National Sports Report*, discussing why WWFE's new football league, the XFL, is needed

"I don't like it. I'm used to Mick Foley with the long hair and the hair pulled out and the bald spots and whatever. But whatever he does with his hair is no concern to me. He probably doesn't like my haircut, either."

—"Stone-Cold" Steve Austin, talking about Commissioner Foley on wwf.com

"I have turned myself from an athlete to a sports entertainer, and now I am entertaining people athletically. And once they understand that, you'll see more amateur wrestlers getting involved [with the WWF]."

—Kurt Angle, in an interview with foxsports.com, discussing his relationship with the amateur wrestling world

"Ten months in [WCW] has been 10 years to me. It really has. I can tell you it has literally taken years off my life. But I would never quit, I would never stop chasing that dream, that vision. I've got less than 14 months left on my contract, and when those 14 months are finished, I will be as far away from this business as I can possibly get for the rest of my life. And that is a promise."

—Vince Russo, in an interview on *WCW Live*

caption me!

Think you're a more clever writer than the editors here at *PWI*? Here's your chance to prove it, punk! This picture of a woozy Triple-H wearing a beer bong needs a short, concise, and downright uproarious caption. If you think you're up to the task, e-mail your delectable little quips to PWIFocus@aol.com or throw a 32-cent stamp on an envelope and make the postal workers of America slave even harder for their money by mailing your suggestions to "Caption Me!" Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Two months from now, we'll share with you the best of the bunch-and the funnier the better. □

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RINGSIDE

With Will Welsh

WITH TNN BOOTING it off the network to make room for the WWF, with **Paul Heyman** acquiring a slew of frequent flier miles in an attempt to secure the company a new cable home, and with its roster as depleted of star power as it's ever been, Extreme Championship Wrestling invaded New York City for two successive August nights and came away looking like a sweaty **Francine** crawling around a pile of well-worn satin sheets: downright beautiful.

The two shows, held in Manhattan's Hammerstein Ballroom, marked the beginning of a new era in ECW. Long gone to other promotions were such ECW mainstays as **Raven**, **Lance Storm**, and **Tazz**. Inheriting their positions over the course of the weekend were relatively unproven commodities, wrestlers like **Kid Kash**, **Little Guido Maritato**, **Yoshihiro Tajiri**, **Steve Corino**, **Swinger**, and **Simon Diamond**.

Kash, with the help of **Rob Van Dam** and **The Sandman**, defeated **Rhino** for the TV title. Tajiri and **Mikey Whipwreck** won the ECW World tag team title tournament. One night later, the duo lost the belts to Maritato and his partner, **Tony Mamaluke**, an ECW newcomer who has impressed while showing absolutely no regard for his own personal safety.

Corino, in his match with ECW World champion **Justin Credible**, showed that he is more than capable of performing on a main-event level—rulebreaker or not. And the team of Diamond and Swinger, longshots at best to win the tournament, surprised everyone with their impressive—if not triumphant—performance in the finals.

"I'd say the Hammerstein Ballroom shows were pretty much as good as ECW gets," said ECW announcer **Joey Styles**. "It was one of the most enjoyable weekends that I have ever had in the seven years that I've been in professional wrestling."

And as for the elevation of new stars ...

"I think Steve Corino was made at the Hammerstein Ballroom shows," Styles said. "I think some people still weren't accepting him as a main-eventer. They will now. Kid Kash was made at the Hammerstein Ballroom. Mikey Whipwreck and Tajiri were instantly pushed as a top team in ECW. I

Although Steve Corino didn't manage to defeat ECW World champ Justin Credible at New York's Hammerstein Ballroom, he did manage to cement his position as one of ECW's top stars in a hard-fought loss.

don't think the new incarnation of the Full-Blooded Italians, Guido Maritato and Tony Mamaluke, had won a match yet together, then they went and won the World tag title. **Jerry Lynn** pinned Rob Van Dam and Justin Credible in the same night. I think this weekend was almost everything ECW needs to be, and I'll tell you why I said 'almost.' The only thing that would have made it perfect for me would have been calling the events live as they happened."

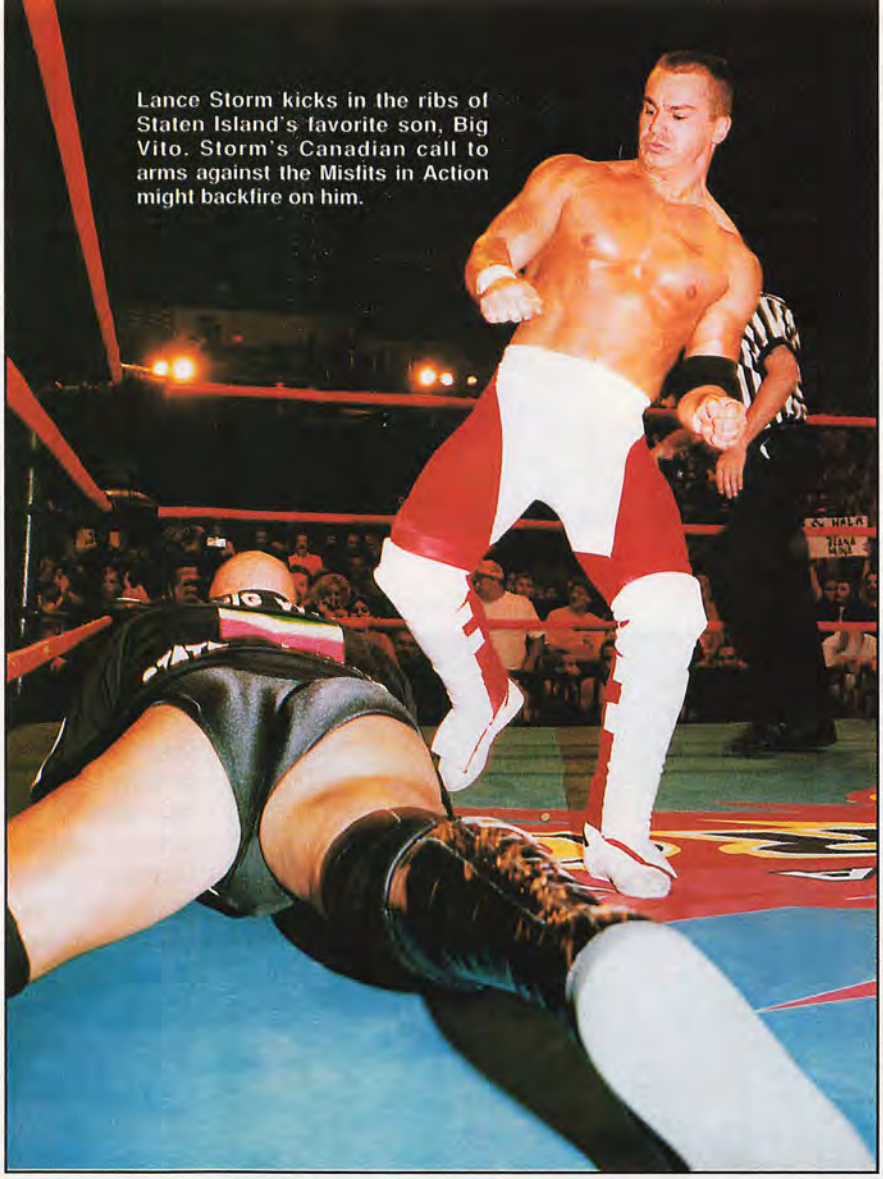
Though Styles might lament the fact that ECW's announcing is voiced in post-production, that doesn't take away from the fact that ECW put together two of its strongest shows in its existence on back-to-back nights.

At a time when ECW needed to have a breakout performance, the promotion did exactly that. Congratulations to everyone involved.

There's something to be said for national pride. Without nationalism—and the burning desire to defend what you believe in that goes along with it—small, independent countries would constantly be targets ripe for pillaging. But there's also something to be said for humility. A tiny nation like Laos (if you haven't heard of it, grab an atlas and start scouring Southeast Asia) has to be humble. If the country started mouthing off at any given opportunity, it would get its teeth kicked in by its bigger and more powerful neighbors. My point? **Lance Storm** needs to quiet down—and in a hurry.

Sure, Storm is proud of being Canadian. There's nothing wrong with that. But when you're short-staffed like Storm currently is (half of his original Team Canada—**Carl Oulette** and **Jacques Rougeau**—has already departed), you shouldn't go messing with a group like the **MIA**. And you definitely shouldn't draw its ire by picking on the group's weakest link, i.e. **Major Gunns**.

"Listen, Welsh, I don't care what you think," Storm said after I voiced my concerns to him. "You're just back here trying to cause trouble. What you don't realize is that all the best wrestlers in the world come from Canada—and the best of the best come from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. If you think that I can't handle a rag-tag group like the Misfits in Action, you apparently have no respect for me or my country. Gunns will become Canadian whether she likes it or not."



Lance Storm kicks in the ribs of Staten Island's favorite son, Big Vito. Storm's Canadian call to arms against the Misfits in Action might backfire on him.

If she does, I might have to renounce my American citizenship, forsake Guinness for Molson, and start spelling Canadian "Canadien."

With **Terri's** ever-changing stable devoid of champions (**Perry Saturn** dropped the Euro title to **Al Snow** shortly before this issue went to press), those in the know say that the "Horny Little She-Devil" is already scouring the WWF's ranks for yet another hunk onto whom she can strap her chuck wagon. Reportedly high on her list is **Steve Blackman**, who at press time was the WWF hardcore champ.

When questioned about acquiring the services of Blackman, Terri was as coy as ever.

"I like Steve a lot," Terri said. "He's tall, he's dark, and he's handsome. And he knows when and how to get rough. I like that in a man. But am I looking to 'acquire his services,' as you so lewdly put it? You'll just have to wait and see."

While nothing is shocking in the WWF, it's kind of hard to image a placid Blackman standing at ringside while Terri wrestles in one of her licentious matches against **The Kat**. He just doesn't seem to be that kind

(Continued on page 80)

In focus

By Dave Lenker

Vince Russo will be out of wrestling completely by the end of next year. At least that's what he's saying now. That seems to indicate he doesn't have much in the way of a long-term plan.

ANOTHER RUSSO CONTROVERSY

Whenever the topic of discussion in our editorial offices turns to Vince Russo (and believe me, it turns to Vince Russo quite often), I start to think I'm pretty special.

You see, it seems everyone who watches WCW either loves or hates Vince Russo and the way he approaches wrestling. I think I might be the only one in the world who is right in the middle of that spectrum. I think he has been responsible for producing some very good WCW shows and some absolutely horrendous WCW shows, but mostly shows that have at least as much bad as good.

Just when I thought Russo could never surprise me with anything he did again, he comes out with the quote that we printed in "Before The Bell" on page six, the one in which he says he's getting out of wrestling completely once his WCW contract expires next year.

Let's see here. WCW is getting rid of a lot of high-priced veterans who don't have much long-term value and is basically rebuilding the company around a few big-name stars and some of the younger talent with untapped potential, right? Then the leader of the operation tells everyone that he'll stick around 14 more months at the most, provided the company doesn't dump him earlier. Oh yeah, and he *expects* the company to dump him earlier.

For you sports fans out there, imagine your favorite team finishing in last place, deciding to trade away most of its high-priced superstars and rebuild with a lot of unproven prospects, then listening as its still-largely unproven manager announces that he'll do his best with the team for a season or so, but after that, he's gone forever.

Yes, that's just the man I want guiding my team—a man who in 14 months won't have to worry about whether the moves he made were good or bad for the team, as he'll be long gone.

If I'm Brad Siegel, Russo's boss, I want to know what my creative director has tentatively planned for the company six months, a year, two years, even five years from now. I want a man with a vision for the company, a man who's excited about the future, a man who wants to be around when the company is profitable again or at least when it's reasonably close to being competitive with the WWF again.

I don't want someone who talks about what an ordeal it's been to work for the company, someone who can't wait for his contract to expire, someone who insists his shows are better than the WWF's programs despite the fact that he'd have a hard time finding anyone who doesn't collect a Time Warner paycheck to agree with him.

I'm not saying Russo isn't creative enough, driven enough, or intelligent enough to do a lot to strengthen WCW (he's right when he says most of the problems

plaguing the company today were not of his doing), but if he is going to do that, I think he needs to spend a lot less time bellyaching on the Internet about how hard it is for him to get things done because of the politics in WCW and a lot more trying to produce programs that have continuity from week to week (not to mention from *Nitro* to *Thunder* two days later) and have people anticipating the next show.

He can do that by laying out a long-term plan for rebuilding WCW and convincing everyone that it can work. It won't be easy, but didn't he leave the WWF last year because he wanted a challenge?

RUSSO ON SABLE

Another tidbit from Russo's rant on *WCW Live:* He'd sign Rena Mero (Sable) in a heartbeat if she were available. I think he's actually fortunate that she won't be completely free from her WWF contract for about another year.

I wonder if people would really care all that much if Mero were to return. I've always thought that her success and popularity were more a result of her being in the right place at the perfect time than anything else. How many times have you seen her since she left the WWF, anyway?

Russo also mentioned something about Midajah being the next Sable. Make your own judgment on that one. My feeling is that anytime you set out to make someone the next anyone, you're setting out to make yourself look like a jackass. But at least Russo is thinking about creating new stars and not just looking to latch on to the old ones.

That's one lesson I'm surprised he didn't learn so well during his time in the WWF: The key to long-term success in wrestling is to find the people you can help develop into stars.

Besides Mero, had you ever heard of Chyna before she came to the WWF? She just had a layout in *Playboy.* Would you have ever thought that Stephanie McMahon would become one of the most important figures on WWF TV? Couldn't Trish Stratus just as easily have been Sable had she come along a few years earlier? In addition to being able to turn wrestlers with a lot of potential into superstars, the WWF has a knack for developing strong female talent.

Long after Mero was forgotten, it has another megastar-in-the-making in Lita.

A bit player in ECW for a few months (remember her as Miss Congeniality?), she was given time to develop as Essa Rios' sidekick before she quickly moved up the card. Like Chyna before her, she has an unusual appeal. When Chyna arrived, she was the cold, mysterious, intimidating bodybuilder at whom you couldn't stop staring. Fans had never seen anyone quite like her. In the years since her WWF debut, we've come to appreciate many different facets of her personality.

The WWF keeps churning out the stars. Lita may not be a classic beauty in the mold of a Rena Mero, but she's already extremely popular with men and women. That popularity should grow in the months to come.

Lita is more the tough, confident tomboy type. She's very attractive, but not at all in a Barbie Doll kind of way. She also comes across as a bit of an underdog, a woman willing to work and take a lot of punishment inside the ring to become a star, someone you want to see succeed. (Okay, it doesn't hurt that her pants are too big for her and she refuses to wear a belt.)

If Lita wasn't something special, she wouldn't have been anywhere near a one-on-one *Raw* main event. And she wouldn't have fans—male and female—chanting her name at shows everywhere.

Maybe someday, someone in WCW can create the next Lita.

Or better yet, a character we haven't seen before.

(Have a comment or question about "In Focus" or anything else you see in ***PWI?*** *You can contact Dave Lenker via e-mail at pwifocus@aol.com.)* □

Off the Top Rope

By Brandi Mankiewicz

If you wish to contribute to Brandi's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
Box 1148
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Or send e-mail to:
OffTheTopRope @yahoo.com

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Brandi Mankiewicz herself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

*I AM DOING my best to not rip Vince Russo again this month, but it's hard. I can't seem to come up with anything positive to say about the sport in general. Is it that I'm just such a cynic that it's impossible for me to be happy? Maybe it's Post-"**PWI** 500" Stress Disorder. Maybe it's the storylines in WCW. Maybe I caught Kurt Angle in a lie. Maybe I'm still waiting for Godo. Maybe I just need sleep.*

*With all these maybes floating around in my head, there is one thing that is clear: Vince Russo needs to be stopped. Or at least given voice lessons to get rid of that god-awful accent if he's going to remain on TV. But for how omnipotent this "creative genius" is supposed to be, it all seems like smoke and mirrors. Remember, kiddies, never look behind the mighty Oz' curtain. You might just see something there that will destroy your illusions. The thing about Russo is that he's the one who keeps pulling back the curtain. A **New Yawka** in Atlanta? Even he shoulda known better.*

So there you have it. My attempt at being nice. Not pretty, right? Oh well, since I'm cantankerous, I may as well answer your mail, for I am your champion.

Dear Brandi,

I'm sick and tired of Kurt Angle and Jerry "The King" Lawler saying that Kurt Angle is the only Olympic wrestler in the WWF when there is one other that I am aware of, and that is Ken Patera. He wrestled in the late-'70s and early-'80s, but in his prime could wipe the mat with Kurt Angle.

GILBERT FIELD
Gilbert06354@yahoo.com

Dear Gilbert,

Well, the reason everyone from Lawler to Angle himself keeps blowing Kurt's Olympic horn is because he's the only American Olympic wrestler currently in the WWF. Also, he is one of only a few pros to have won a medal in the Olympics for *wrestling*. Ken Patera—who was no Kurt Angle—won his little medal in weightlifting, which isn't a real sport, so it doesn't count. But if you consider a fourth-place finish by any wrestler at the Olympics something to crow about, then Angle has some competition coming his way from Iran. Former WWF World champion The Iron Sheik placed fourth, winning the tin medal in the 1968 Olympics. It's true.

Dear Brandi,

Wrestling has changed to an entirely different sport than it was five years ago. The lewd conduct, abrasive language, and hardcore style don't bother me, since this is how wrestling has evolved in general. What is bothering me is the "hardcore" backyard wrestling craze. I like watching wrestlers beat the crap out of each other in specialty matches and confess to even watching a few FMW extreme death matches. Guys like Foley, Atsushi Onita, Terry Funk, and Abdullah the Butcher built their careers around stuff like that, and a lot of what they did was borderline insane. But they are trained professionals, and some of these kids in the backyard leagues aren't even trained to hiptoss someone, let alone know how to legdrop someone on a bed of nails without crippling them. I know that Foley and company probably weren't shown how to do this extreme stuff, either, but at least they were shown how to minimize the damage. I know that professional training doesn't make this stuff okay, but will it take someone getting killed before people realize that they should at least know how to bump before going to the extremes?

Ever your faithful servant,
JAMES SMITH
JamesS@v4s.com

Dear James,

Not only are you my servant, but you share my opinion about backyard wrestling. It is unfortunate in this age of advanced intelligence that some of the young-ins would rather break lightbulbs over their best friends' heads than properly learn the intricacies of the sport. But countless genera-

Here he is, your Olympic champion in all his glory! Okay, so he didn't really win a medal in the 1968 Olympics, but he made up for it in 1983 by defeating Bob Backlund for a more important hunk of metal—the WWF World title.

tions of kids have played football thinking they were Dan Marino or picked up their first hockey stick in the hopes of becoming the next Wayne Gretzky. Maybe the whole backyard phenomenon is just kids doing the ultimate idol emulation that their football and hockey freak friends do. Whatever the circumstances, I think it's then up to the parents to step in and stop this self-mutilation. Hey, I was a young queen at one time. I loved the Sheepherders-Fantastics barbed-wire brawls from the UWF, but I didn't pick up barbed wire and scrape it across my best friend's face. (Okay, I knocked him silly with a DDT, but he deserved it. He wouldn't stop imitating Sting.) But I also loved to study the sport. I've grown to appreciate the grace of a well-executed move as well as the blood. My only hope is that kids today will gain that appreciation as well.

Dear Brandi,

When will we see Sable back in the ring? I really do miss her. If you have any info, please let me know.

JOHN MIKELS
johnnymikels10@hotmail.com

Dear John,

Sable is long gone from this business, although I hear that she now wants to come crawling back to the WWF. Since you miss her so much, I would suggest checking out her acting ability on a new TV show called *The Informants,* but she's already been replaced. Okay, you can still check her out in numerous magazines in which she talks about pretty much nothing—oh, I mean her career. Beyond that, she's just praying for an acting job, but in reality, she should be thanking a higher power (yes, Vince McMahon) for getting her 15 minutes of fame.

Dear Brandi,

Why did Kid Kash go to ECW? I mean, he'd be better off in the WWF teaming with The Undertaker to form an American Bad Ass team. But my question is why is Kid Kash in ECW?

NAME UNKNOWN
Aguiri95@cs.com

To Nobody In Particular,

If you want me to answer your letters in the future, please be smart enough to include your full name and hometown. Don't feed me that "Your Loyal Servant" garbage, because you should all be loyal by now. Also, even though redundancy may help you remember things like how many feet you have, Rain Man, it's a tad bit annoying for intelligent folks like me. Take a Luvox for your Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, remember your name only once, and construct a legitimate letter. As for Kid Kash, the WWF has already featured the real Kid Rock, so why would it want a knockoff in genuine imitation leather pants. ECW is the perfect place for this former Rick Morton wannabe. He's too flashy, too pretentious, and too much of a ripoff to ever be considered for the WWF.

It seems every backyard wrestler wants to end up like Cactus Jack. I hate to tell them, though, that even though they might play with barbed wire, chances are they'll end up in a pine box instead of with a best-selling autobiography.

Dear Queen,

What is your all-time favorite finishing move or hold?

EDDIE MARTINEZ
caveman_mtz@yahoo.com

Dear Slaveman,

I have always been partial to aerialists, but I really don't have a solid favorite that the common idiot fan would know. I am fascinated by some of the more intricate moves that are either executed masterfully by the top Japanese wrestlers or are feebly attempted by the backyard wannabes who trade tapes of Japanese wrestling. While Hayabusa's shooting star press and Chapparita Asari's skytwister press rank high on my list, I have to go with Manami Toyota's Japanese ocean suplex at the top spot. Since I'm sure you have never seen Manami Toyota execute a Japanese ocean suplex, I'll describe it for you. Toyota grabs her opponent in a cross-arm chicken wing, then sends her captive opponent over in a belly-to-back suplex. It's really something to see.

Letter of the month (taken verbatim from the actual letter to share my torture with all of you):

Dear Brandi,

Can I sit on your lap?

NEXUS FROST
LoSs_oF_lIfE@webtv.net

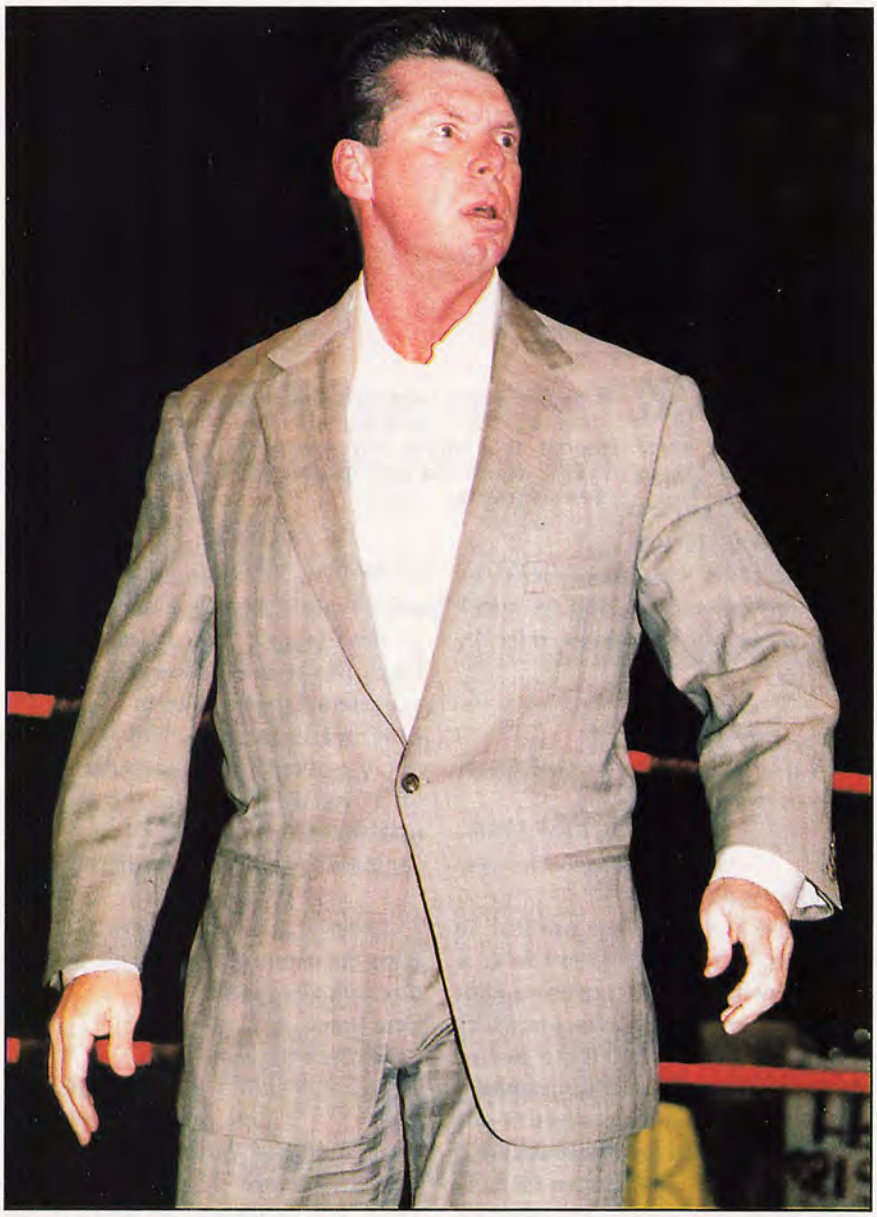
Dear Nudie Bar Patron,

Not a chance. There isn't enough Lysol and anti-bacterial spray in the world to make me even think of letting you do such a thing. □

KREW-CUTS

By Frank Krewda

The political machine. So Vince McMahon and the WWF are getting into politics. After dulling their young fans with sex and violence for the past four years, the WWF is suddenly trying to raise their consciousness by urging them to get out and vote in this year's presidential election.



Over the last four years, Vince McMahon has spearheaded adult-themed sports entertainment. Now he wants to make amends by hosting a debate between George W. Bush and Al Gore. Frank Krewda is highly critical of the move.

As of press time, the WWF had registered more than 50,000 fans with its "Smackdown Your Vote" campaign. McMahon even invited presidential candidates George W. Bush and Al Gore to debate each other on *Smackdown*.

Isn't it great?

No, it isn't.

First of all, professional wrestling—and especially the WWF—is supposed to be entertainment. It's supposed to be a diversion from life's travails. That's what makes professional wrestling cool.

Why do lawyers and doctors and other successful professional people attend live events? Why do mainstream stars like Mike Tyson and David Arquette get involved?

Because wrestling allows us to take a vacation from the daily grind, whatever our daily grind may be.

The values that govern the WWF and the rest of the wrestling industry do not apply in the real world. They don't even apply to other sports. And if they're allowed to permeate American politics, Phil Mushnick and Geraldo Rivera will be correct when they say professional wrestling must be reined in before it's too late.

Politics are real life. And they're important. But they're not entertainment. In fact, they're boring as hell, and, quite frankly, I'd appreciate it if the WWF didn't force-feed me these two drones when I've already had more than enough of them.

If I want to watch a presidential debate, I'll tune into CNN, MSNBC, or CNBC.

But when I watch *Smackdown*, I'd rather see Terri and The Kat debate who's going to stick her rear end in the other's face. That's what the show is for.

Now that the WWF has firmly overtaken the disgrace this magazine still calls a Monday night ratings war, I guess McMahon can afford to go PC. But where did the Vince McMahon who thumbed his nose at society's standards for decency go?

Don't worry, he'll reappear in a few years, when the sport's popularity

ty takes it's inevitable nose dive.

It's sad. McMahon fancied himself a maverick when wrestling purists decried the effect his departure from conventional wrestling had on the sport. Now he's part of the convention.

Of course, none of this means getting people to vote is a bad thing. It's just that rubbing elbows with politicians is not what the WWF is about. Doing it requires morals and decency—at least giving the impression that you have them—and the WWF rose to the top by celebrating the fact that it had neither. It was that counterculture panache that made the WWF such a big hit with its young fans in the first place.

Unfortunately, the more mindless sect will buy into the charade and applaud the WWF for accepting its obligation to the kids. And the WWF will give itself a big pat on the back, like it's done some sorely needed service for society. Actually, it's patting away already by reminding us every 10 minutes on *Raw* just how many people the company has registered.

But be patient, wrestling fans. When this sepulchral election mercifully passes, out will pop the T and up will bounce the A.

Stevie Ray's transition from active competitor to *Thunder* color commentator has gone off fairly well. Stevie provides much-needed insight from an actual wrestler's perspective.

The 10-year itch. If you're an overweight giant with a 10-year deal with the WWF, chances are the WWF will ask you to drop a few pounds. And if you respond with several half-hearted efforts, chances are you'll be handed a ticket to the glamorous metropolis known as Louisville, Kentucky.

That's where Ohio Valley Championship Wrestling is based, and that is where Mark Henry and The Big Show have been sent until they get in shape.

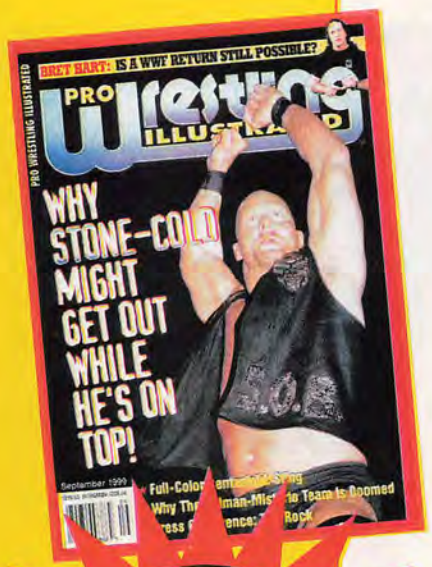
It was later revealed that Big Show had a herniated disk in his back, so his tour of OVW was suspended for a time, but you can bet he'll be in Louisville for a while when he's ready to return.

And to think, only a year or so ago, Show was WWF World champ.

Hmmmmmm. He signed a 10-year deal, wore the belt for a while, then let himself go. That just demonstrates the difference between WCW and the WWF.

In WCW, some guys were rewarded for just doing what they wanted. Apparently, that's not how business is done in Stamford.

Hard to believe ... That one of the highlights of WCW programming would be the commentary of Stevie Ray on *Thunder* ... That it took Sean O'Haire this long to finally make it to WCW. He may be green, but this guy is an athlete ... That Super Crazy's work visa problems are that complicated that he still hasn't returned to ECW. How could Paul E. let this guy get away? ... That Shane McMahon isn't being used better in the WWF. He's improving in the ring and on the mike. His prematch attack on Steve Blackman with Pete Gas and Rodney before winning the hardcore title was classic ... That we ranked Keiji Muto so high in this year's "*PWI* 500." The man can hardly move ... That Jerry Lawler continues to kick Tazz' ass ... That Triple-H was pinned by The Brooklyn Brawler on *Smackdown* a few months ago, but didn't seem to lose any momentum because of it ... That WCW would even mention the Juggalo title on its shows. How many people know or care what it is? By the way, what are ICP and Vampiro doing together? Weren't they enemies not too long ago? ... That *PWI* has finally gone all-color, all-slick! □


BRET HART: IS A WWF RETURN STILL POSSIBLE?
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September 1999

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February 1985: AWA World Champion Rick Martel: Five Steps To Greatness. Centerfold: Magnum T.A. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Blanchard-Rhodes, Bob Backlund, Paul Ellering.

April 1985: Jimmy Snuka: "I Want Piper!"—Even If It Kills The Tonga Kid. Centerfold: Ronnie Garvin. Plus: Flair-Rhodes, Terry Gordy, Jim Garvin, Road Warriors.

June 1985: Super Dream Contest: Play Dusty Rhodes' Trivia Game And Win His Boots! Centerfold: Barry Windham. Plus: Flair-Kerry, Fabulous Ones-Road Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Magnum T.A.

November 1987: When The Going Gets Tough ... Will Nikita Koloff Turn Bad Again? Centerfold: George Steele. Plus: Road Warriors, Hulk Hogan, Jimmy Hart, Barry Windham.

June 1988: Is The End Near For Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: Tully Blanchard. Plus: Midnight Rockers-Kelly & Kiniski, Al Perez, Dusty Rhodes, Magnificent Muraco.

August 1988: Macho Madness—The Torch Is Passed. Centerfold: Al Perez. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Bruno Sammartino, Luger & Windham, Eddie Gilbert.

November 1988: He's Back! But Is Savage's Belt Beyond Hulk's Reach? Centerfold: Midnight Express. Plus: Madusa-Hyatt, Rock 'n' Rolls, Dusty Rhodes, Warlord & Barbarian-Ax & Smash, Kevin Von Erich & Jessica McClure.

November 1989: Dusty Rhodes—Alone And In Danger. Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Luger-Steamboat, Ultimate Warrior, Robert Fuller, Rick Steiner.

January 1990: Warrior's Next Victim: Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: Sid Vicious. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Jim Ross, Midnight Express.

February 1990: Luger's Holiday Gift For Flair: Has The "Total Package" Wrapped Up The NWA Title? Centerfold: Bret Hart. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Woman, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams.

May 1990: Hulk Hogan: Primed And Ready For WrestleMania VI. Centerfold: Great Muta. Plus: Piper-Rude, Eric Embry, Rock 'n' Rolls, Sid Vicious, pain.

June 1990: Hogan vs. Warrior: Why WrestleMania VI Won't Settle This Feud. Centerfold: Sting. Plus: Nikita Koloff, Cornette-Rock 'n' Rolls, Rhodes-Savage, Anderson-Sawyer, boxers vs. wrestlers.

July 1990: The Maturing Of Lex Luger: The "Total Package" Becomes The People's Choice. Centerfold: Rick Martel. Plus: Skyscrapers, Bobby Heenan, Mr. Saito, referees.

September 1990: The Hulkster's Wrath: 7,000 Miles To Violent Redemption. Centerfold: The Steiners. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Sting, Destruction Crew, Four Horsemen, Curt Hennig.

October 1990: Sting's Painful Lesson: You'll Have No Friends At The Top. Centerfold: Brutus Beefcake. Plus: Orndorff-Blanchard, Tugboat, Teddy Long, Ultimate Warrior, Road Warriors.

November 1990: Sting Wins The NWA World Title! "If This Is A Dream, Don't Wake Me." Centerfold: Road Warriors. Plus: Rude-Warrior, Ric Flair, Funk-Hansen, muscle and power.

February 1991: WrestleMania VII Contest. Centerfold: 1991 calendar. Plus: Sid Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Scott Steiner, Power & Glory, Terry Funk.

March 1991 (Special Issue): 1990—The Year In Wrestling. 1990 In Review, Achievement '90 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1991.

April 1991: Sgt. Slaughter Guilty Of Treason! Centerfold: Tom Zenk. Plus: Sting, Magnum T.A., Jesse Ventura, Lawler-Gilbert, Hogan & Warrior.

June 1991: Hulk Hogan: America's Hero. Centerfold: Hacksaw Duggan. Plus: Cactus Jack, Ric Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiners, Simmons-Reed.

July 1991: The War Is Over! Hulk Hogan Liberates The WWF Belt From Sgt. Slaughter! Centerfold: Brian Pillman. Plus: Horsemen, Lex Luger, Eric Embry, Demolition.

August 1991 (Special Issue): Supercards '91. Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: WrestleMania VII, WCW-New Japan, Ultimate Warrior, Owen Hart, Koloff-Luger.

October 1991: Sid Justice: The Second Coming Of Hulk Hogan. Centerfold: Lex Luger. Plus: Hogan-Slaughter, Terrence Taylor, Barry Windham, Williams-Bigelow.

November 1991: Your Wedding Gift For Savage & Elizabeth: Help Lift The "Macho Man's" Suspension! Centerfold: Bobby Eaton. Plus: Tito Santana, Bushwhackers, Jushin Liger, Brian Pillman.

January 1992: Ric Flair: He'll Make Hulk Hogan Look Like An Amateur. Centerfold: Ron Simmons. Plus: Rick Steiner, Ultimate Warrior, Lex Luger.

February 1992: Has Hulk Hogan Had Enough? Centerfold: 1992 calendar. Plus: Sting, Justice-Roberts, hot prospects, Eddie Gilbert.

May 1992: Revitalized In Tokyo: Hulk Hogan Is Super-Psyched For WrestleMania VII! Centerfold: Rick Rude. Plus: Sting & Muta-Steiners, Jarrett & Fuller, Lightning Kid, Randy Savage, intimidation.

June 1992: Exclusive *PWI* Interview: Roddy Piper Speaks Out! Centerfold: Dustin Rhodes. Plus: Dangerously-Sting, Abdullah-Cactus, Sid Justice, Randy Savage.

July 1992: The Best Of The Best—The Masters Of Their Craft. Centerfold: Randy Savage. Plus: Liger-Pillman, Jim Neidhart, U.S.-Japan, Ric Flair.

September 1992: Savage vs. Sting: Why It

Isn't That Unlikely. Centerfold: Nikita Koloff. Plus: Steiners, Barry Windham, Sid Justice, Hodge & Weston, Shawn Michaels.

October 1992: The Hatred Still Runs Deep: Ultimate Warrior vs. Randy Savage—They'll Settle Up At SummerSlam! Centerfold: Cactus Jack. Plus: Steve Williams, Tom Zenk, WWF title controversy, fire match, Eric Embry.

November 1992: The British Bulldog: Hounding The Hitman. Centerfold: Ultimate Warrior. Plus: Honky Tonk Man, Steiners, Undertaker, Madusa, perfect wrestler.

January 1993: New WWF World Champion Ric Flair: His SummerSlam Plan Works To Perfection. Centerfold: Jeff Jarrett. Plus: Ron Simmons, Kerry Von Erich, Rude-Roberts-Steamboat.

February 1993: No One Can Cut Down Razor Ramon. Centerfold: Curt Hennig. Plus: Jake Roberts, Pillman-Dustin, Ric Flair-Road Warriors, Rick Rude, Snuka-Muraco.

May 1993: WrestleMania Without Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: The Undertaker. Plus: Ron Simmons, Cactus Jack, Madusa-Sherri, WCW-New Japan, Ultimate Warrior.

April 1996: WCW World Title Turmoil. Centerfold: The Kid. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Ahmed Johnson, Bob Armstrong, Michaels-Bret, Public Enemy.

May 1996: Un-Natural! The WWF Has Finally Gone Too Far! Centerfold: Public Enemy. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Dreamer-Raven, Dan Severn, Ric Flair, Giant.

October 1996: Peaking Too Soon: Will The Giant Be Ruined By His Own Success? Centerfold: Goldust. Plus: Big Van Vader, Ric Flair, Bulldog, Lex Luger.

Winter 1996 (Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Centerfold: Shawn Michaels.

February 1997: Mr. Perfect: "Shawn Michaels Stole My Life." Centerfold: "Psycho" Sid. Plus: Kroffat & Furnas, Vince McMahon, Randy Savage, New Razor & New Diesel.

April 1997: How Winning The Title Saved Psycho Sid's Sanity. Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: Rocky Maivia, Jeff Jarrett, Unofficial/Officials, Chris Jericho.

February 1998: Sting vs. Hogan—The Match Of The Century! Centerfold: Hogan vs. Sting fight poster. Plus: 16-page Starrcade preview, Perry Saturn, Dude Love.

March 1998 (Special Issue): 1997—The Year In Wrestling. 1997 In Review, Achievement '97 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1998.

April 1998: The DeGeneration X Debate: Will It Save Or Ruin The WWF? Centerfold: Ken Shamrock. Plus: Bret Hart, Undertaker-Kane, Melanie Pillman.

May 1998: Starrcade Scandal! We Hate To Say It ... But Give The Belt Back To Hogan: Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Mero & Sable, Taz, Taka Michinoku.

June 1998 (Special Issue): The 1998 PWI Poll. Centerfold: Steve Austin. Plus: Sabu, Lex Luger, Sting, Rocky Maivia, Bill Goldberg.

July 1998: WWF vs. WCW: Which Is Better? Centerfold: Benoit, Bill Goldberg, Ahmed Johnson.

October 1998: Bret Screws Bret, Part II. Centerfold: Hunter Hearst Helmsley. Plus: Jim Ross, Marcus Bagwell, WWF controversy, FBI.

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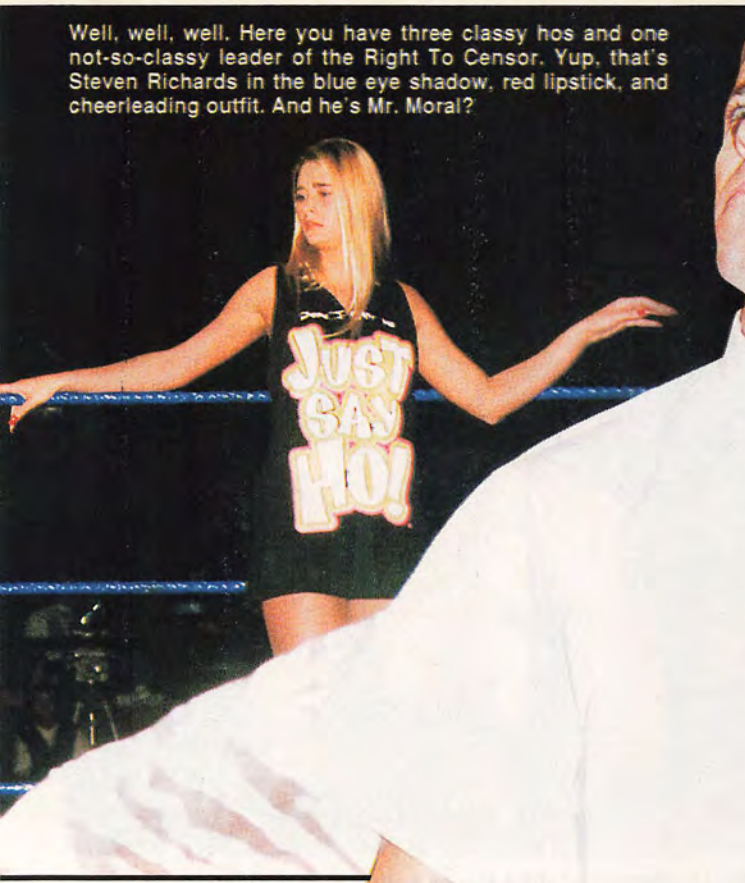
PWI Digs Up The Dirt On Steven Richards!

THIS MAN HAS NO RIGHT TO CENSOR!

By Harry Burkett

IN THE COURT of public opinion, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED hereby presents its case: the wrestling fans vs. Steven Richards. This isn't necessarily an indictment of those who share the views of the Parents Television Council, the organization lobbying advertisers to pull their ads from WWF programming. Our investigation does, however, place Richards—head of the WWF's Right To Censor—under severe scrutiny.

Extensive background research and compelling photographic evidence portray Richards as a man of fickle moral values. The fact that Richards is the leader of the RTC brings the entire movement into question—and casts a shadow of suspicion on his followers. Is Richards genuinely concerned with the viewing public's moral welfare?



Well, well, well. Here you have three classy hos and one not-so-classy leader of the Right To Censor. Yup, that's Steven Richards in the blue eye shadow, red lipstick, and cheerleading outfit. And he's Mr. Moral?

Sure, Richards planted this kiss on Bill Alfonso in jest, but is this the man the moral majority wants representing it? With such a shady past, Richards would be best if he espoused nothing—except his wrestling skill.

Or is he the same manipulative self-promoter he's always been?

An unbiased examination of the case reveals the latter.

Richards has a history of using contemporary issues to jump-start his career. Long-time ECW fans will remember when Richards sued Missy Hyatt for sexual harassment

In ECW, Richards was once suspected by Raven of impregnating Raven's girlfriend, Beulah McGillicutty (above left). And this picture of a bloody Luna Vachon is evidence enough to know that Richards wasn't always opposed to male-on-female violence (above right).

several years ago. Richards claimed Hyatt had taken measures to ruin his career after he spurned her sexual advances. The case went nowhere, and Hyatt soon left ECW. Richards knew sexual harassment was a hot-button issue and had used it for his own purposes.

"That just proves my superior moral standing," asserted Richards, when he was given the opportunity to rebut our charges. "I was fighting for wholesome values back then just as I am now."

If that's the case, he really fooled everyone. Before his moral conversion this year, the personality profile of Steven/Stevie Richards was rather clear. He was a goofy guy who wore torn T-shirts and way-too-short cutoff jeans. No dress shirts. No ties. No shiny black shoes. He even made a habit of wrestling in his underwear at times!

The consensus was that Richards was a man of relatively low moral character.

That was certainly the opinion of Raven back in 1996. Raven was deeply involved with Beulah McGillicutty at the time, and Richards was no more than Raven's glorified groupie. Mid-ring at the ECW Arena, Beulah informed Raven that she was pregnant by someone else. Raven attacked and stomped Richards without hesitation. Beulah stopped the attack by admitting the father was Tommy Dreamer. Richards was innocent, but the episode revealed what his best friend really thought about his moral character.

Steven Richards also preaches against male-on-female violence. That's a noble stand, but what is Richards' track record in this area? *PWI* has an entire roll of film devoted to Richards' violent matches against Luna Vachon. One shot shows Luna grasping Richards in a testicular claw. Another photo reveals a grisly image of Luna, with blood dripping down her face—courtesy of Richards. Is there any other male WWF competitor who has battered a woman bloody? There is no one ... except Richards.

"That's a bunch of anti-American propaganda," declared Richards. "I wouldn't call that male-on-female violence. That was yours truly, Steven Richards, fighting the good fight. Anyone with tongue piercings, makeup, or shaved heads has a deteriorating effect on our society. They must be opposed at all costs. I will lead that fight."

What makes Richards a leader? He's been a follower his entire career. He was Raven's whipping boy for several years and even accompanied him in WCW for a short while. Raven abused Richards in public on several occasions, both verbally and physically. But Richards, like a loyal puppy dog, was never man enough to confront Raven.

What about Richards' embarrassing involvement in the Blue World Order? Richards often played

second fiddle to The Blue Meanie, of all people, in a knockoff of the New World Order. Richards, as "Big Stevie Cool," did a lame impersonation of Kevin Nash in that gig.

When Richards entered the WWF last year, he desperately sought a way to get over with the fans. He went through gimmicks in record time, impersonating a different WWF superstar each night, including Val Venis.

Richards as an adult film star. How's that for hypocrisy? Even worse, he committed gimmick infringement, which is as low as one can get in the wrestling business.

"No one should question my integrity," said Richards. "I was immersing myself in those characters to explore how disgusting the WWF had become. Those gimmicks disgusted me, but I was even more repulsed by the fans who were encouraging such filth. I am so glad I can finally reveal my true agenda."

Was Richards doing a character study? Or was he simply trying anything to get over?

"That's why I have trouble sympathizing with Right To Censor," said WWF broadcaster Jonathan Coachman. "Even if I agreed that someone had the moral authority to decide what we watch for entertainment, Richards would be the worst example of a moral leader. Look at Richards' past and how he copied all the other WWF superstars—you'll realize this is a man who's very unstable. I don't understand why The Goodfather and Bull Buchanan want anything to do with him."

Richards' efforts to develop a workable gimmick put him in poor stead with other wrestlers. They viewed Richards as a parasite who fed off the creative efforts of others.

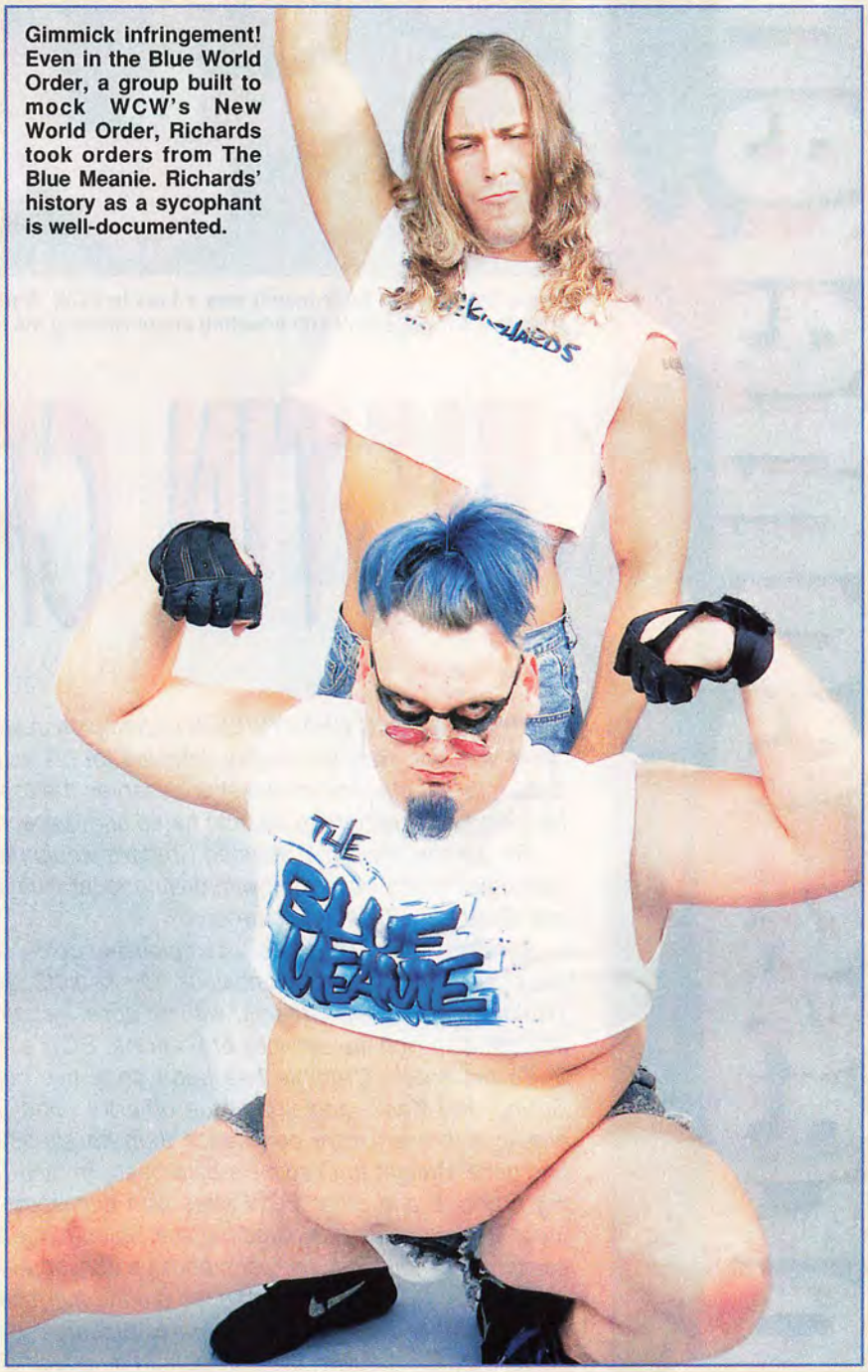
"Richards was always hangin' in the back, tryin' to schmooze up to everybody, but he was just tryin' to copy what everybody was doin'," said Rikishi. "I don't know whether he really believes this Right To Censor garbage, or if he's doin' it just to get attention. Either way, it's pathetic. Steven Richards will stoop to anything."

Still not convinced? Think back to the November 2, 1999, edition of *Smackdown.* The Godfather (he wasn't The Goodfather yet) introduced his latest ho lineup. The "pimps and players" cheered as each beauty emerged from the backstage area. But the last ho to come out drew a mixed response. Sure, she had a nice dress, nice shoes, and nice hair. But that face ... that face.

Under the cover girl makeup was—yes, you guessed it—Steven Richards.

That image alone is enough to destroy any so-called moral leader—especially one as inconsistent as Richards.

The case against RTC and its agenda is strong. But the case against Steven Richards and his hypocrisy is even stronger. □



Gimmick infringement! Even in the Blue World Order, a group built to mock WCW's New World Order, Richards took orders from The Blue Meanie. Richards' history as a sycophant is well-documented.

press conference...

Lance Storm's last ECW match was a loss to ECW World champ Justin Credible. It's a bit of a surprise that Credible isn't still boasting about running his former partner out of ECW.

JUSTIN CREDIBLE

ECW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT champion Justin Credible is a new millennium kind of a wrestler: He's thoroughly detested for his actions but widely respected for his accomplishments. And no wrestler deserves the reaction he gets as much as Credible does. He's worked very hard to be both hated and respected over the past few years in ECW.

For a while, though, it seemed Credible would rather anger fans than win titles. What else could explain his obsession with driving federation icons like Shane Douglas, The Sandman, and Sabu from the land of hardcore?

But once he got a taste of championship gold—two ECW tag team title reigns with Lance Storm—Credible became ambitious. On April 22, 2000, the upstart shocked newly crowned World champ Tommy Dreamer with an upset victory at CyberSlam 2000 to win his first world title. He also won the services of Francine, ECW's "head cheerleader."

To his credit, Credible has been an active champ, defending his belt against Steve Corino, Kid Kash, and numerous others in fine fashion. These wins imbued the young champ with even more confidence than he already carried to the ring. Success, however, has gone straight to Credible's bald head. In fact, he's become downright belligerent, treating Francine and other ECW stars with disrespect. Thrown together in ECW's tag tournament for the vacant title, Credible and Rhino formed a tenuous bond, though it seems Rhino could rebel against his partner's abusive attitude at any second.

The longer Credible's reign goes on, the more he isolates himself, but that's okay by him. As Credible told Senior Writers Harry Burkett and Frank Krewda and Editor-in-Chief Dave Lenker in this interview, the only person he needs on his side is Justin Credible.

FRANK KREWDA: Justin, thanks for ...

JUSTIN CREDIBLE: Thank you, chrome dome.

KREWDA: Thank me? For what?

CREDIBLE: They say imitation is the most sincere form of flattery.

KREWDA: What?

BURKETT: The head, the beard, Frank ...

KREWDA: Oh, right. Well, I can assure you, Justin, that I had this look perfected when you were still wrestling with a jock strap on your head ...

People who don't like the way I won the belt forget I did ECW a big favor by beating Dreamer. He's wasn't a worthy champion. He was a broken down fool who couldn't even walk to the ring.

CREDIBLE: Oh yeah? What are you, some kind of tough guy?

KREWDA: Nope. Just stating a fact ...

CREDIBLE: ***(To Dave Lenker)*** **What about you, four-eyes? You got something smart to say?**

DAVE LENKER: No. But I do have a question.

CREDIBLE: Then spit it out. I don't have all day.

LENKER: Okay. It seems that ever since Lance Storm went to WCW, you've made a point of insulting just about everyone you come in contact with. Call me stupid, but I don't see how that will help you keep the title. I mean, if you look at Jeff Jarrett, he did the same thing in WCW, and that cost him the title four or five times.

CREDIBLE: I can't say anything bad about Jarrett, but let's face it—ECW and WCW are worlds apart. And if I learned anything from wrestling with Lance Storm, it's that you can't depend on anyone else in this business. You have to go out and do things yourself. I got tired of covering his ass and watching out for Dawn Marie. I'm not much of a team player. Never have been.

HARRY BURKETT: Then what were you doing with Rhino in the tag tournament?

CREDIBLE: Well, if I have to compete in some stupid tournament, why not try to win the damn thing? Of all the clowns in ECW, Rhino gave me the best chance. And if we had won the belts, I might have just tossed them aside and kicked his ass.

KREWDA: Have you told Rhino that?

CREDIBLE: What I tell Rhino is none of your business, fat boy. But I will say this—it takes more than skill to win the tag belts; it takes brains, too. I have a plan, just like I did when I kicked Tommy Dreamer's ass at CyberSlam. And, who knows, those belts might be mine for a third time somewhere down the line.

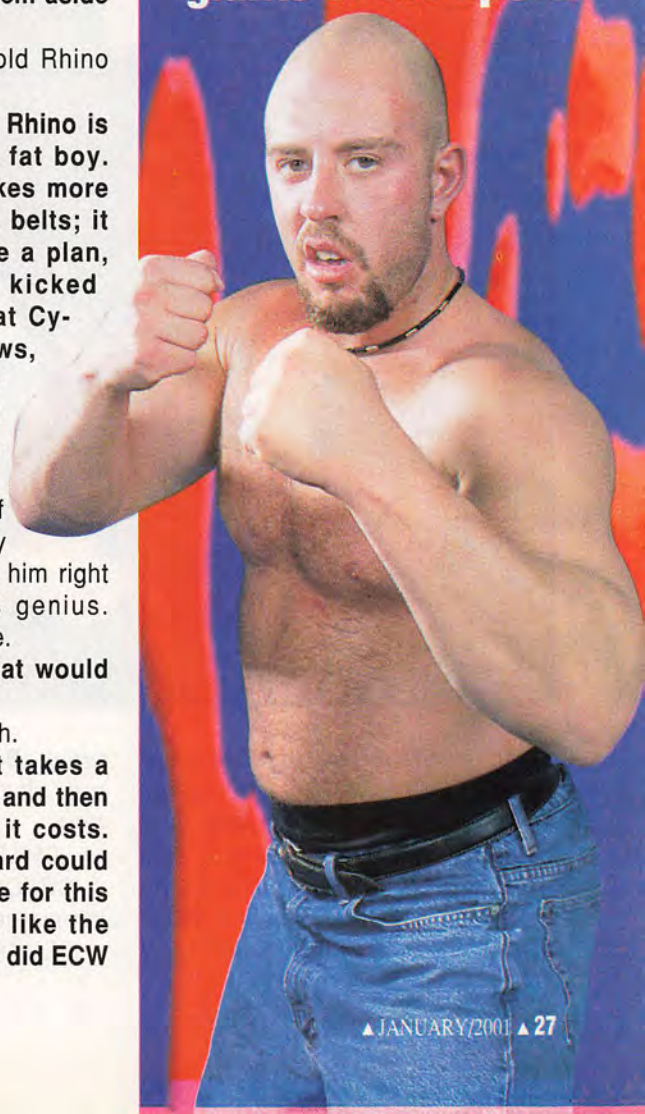
BURKETT: Speaking of Dreamer, some people say your decision to challenge him right after he beat Tazz was genius. Others say it was cowardice.

CREDIBLE: Yeah? What would you call it?

BURKETT: A little of both.

CREDIBLE: I guess it takes a real coward to set a goal and then reach it no matter what it costs. And I guess only a coward could defend the belt like I have for this long. People who don't like the way I won the belt forget I did ECW

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.



Although it was more than six months ago that Credible shocked Tommy Dreamer to win the ECW World title (above), the intensity of his assault on "The Innovator Of Violence" hasn't let up much (below).

a big favor by beating Dreamer. He's wasn't a worthy champion. He was a broken down fool who couldn't even walk to the ring. And before him, the belt was going back and forth between a WCW and a WWF wrestler. Give me a break. Believe me, I ain't no coward. I'll take on any wrestler anytime.

LENKER: Even Rob Van Dam?

CREDIBLE: What the hell is that supposed to mean?

LENKER: Nothing really. It's just that your critics say you've been avoiding him for over two years.

CREDIBLE: You have to remember something here. I'm the World champion. Rob Van Dam comes to me. I'll give him a match when I'm damn good and ready. Rob Van Dam may think he's hot [stuff], but the last time I checked, he wasn't wearing any belts. If he wants a shot at my title, he'll have to get in line just like everybody else.

LENKER: But don't you think the fans would like to see that match?

CREDIBLE: If I cared about the fans, do you think I would have destroyed their beloved Sandman? Or Sabu? Or Shane Douglas? Believe me, I couldn't care less about the fans.

BURKETT: That raises an interesting point. What exactly did you have against those men? You really made an effort to ruin their careers.

CREDIBLE: Trust me, it didn't take that much of an effort. I was just sick and tired of them hogging the spotlight. Here I was, busting my ass, working with concussions and broken bones, and Sandman would come out, crack open a beer, then get an immediate title shot. The old system wasn't doing right by me, so I had to change it. If that meant sending some old-timers out to pasture, oh well. I don't regret a single minute of it—and Tommy Dreamer's next on my list.

KREWDA: Before you get to Dreamer, you'll have to get past Jerry

Lynn first. Maybe Steve Corino a few more times, too. Even you can't afford to look past him.

CREDIBLE: All Corino does is talk a big game. I won't try to tell you that Jerry Lynn's not good. So what. Everybody makes a big deal about Jerry Lynn. Why? Because he beat Van Dam? Hell, it only took him 10 tries.

KREWDA: How would you rate his cradle piledriver against your "That's Incredible" tombstone piledriver?

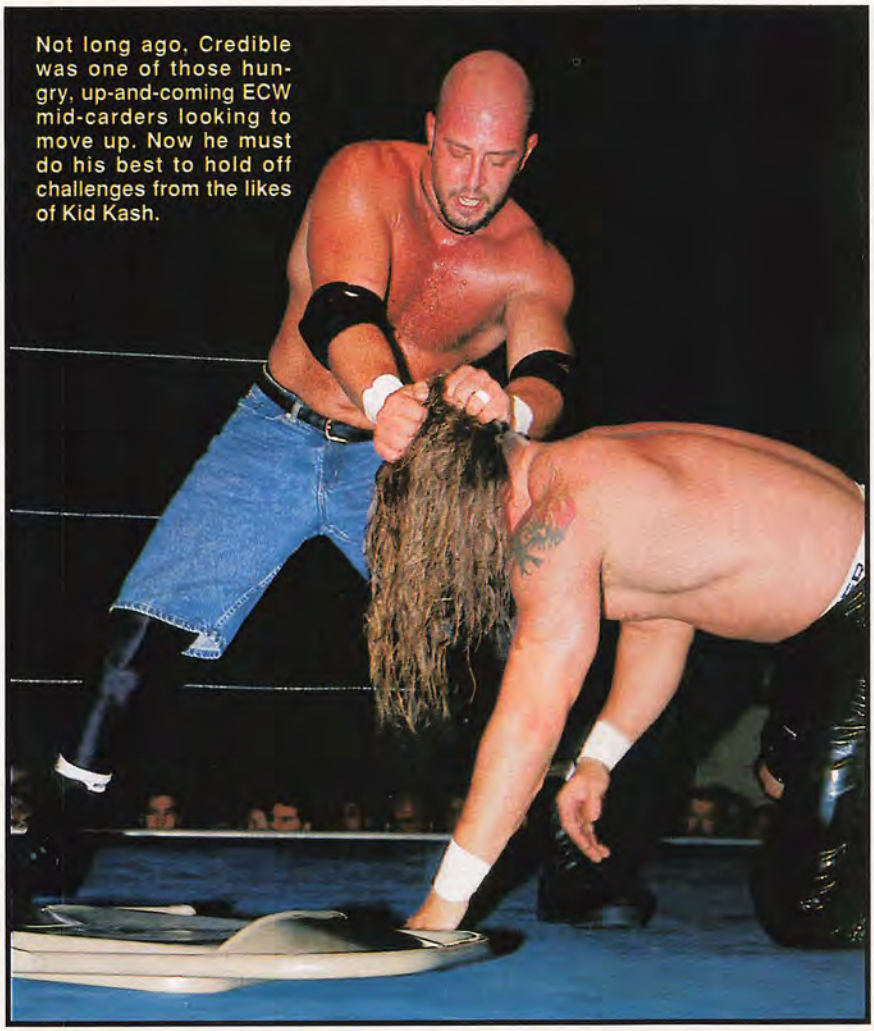
CREDIBLE: Nothing to compare. Just another feeble attempt by someone to imitate a winner. Kinda like what you're doing, cueball. Anyway, I have something that Lynn will never have. I have Francine with me. And that's just one of the reasons I'm gonna ruin his career, too.

BURKETT: Speaking of Francine, you guys seem to have a strange relationship. In the past, Shane Douglas and Tommy Dreamer really seemed to showcase her. But you seem to keep her in the background.

CREDIBLE: Hey, I like a hot chick just as much as the next guy, but I'm the champion and I'm all business in the ring. That's where Francine serves me best. Hell, her and Dreamer would kiss and hug and all that crap, and look where it got him. She bolted to Raven first chance she got. I run the show, not Francine. Sure, she's a good weapon to have out there, but when the bell rings, I'm the one who has to defend the title, not Francine.

KREWDA: One of Francine's complaints was that Dreamer didn't really appreciate her. Do you think comments like the ones you just made might make her feel unappreciated? We've already seen that she'll turn against her man without reservation if it suits her needs.

Credible and Rhino are allies for now, but they've been enemies before. Justin would be smart to do all he can to keep Rhino on his side.



Not long ago, Credible was one of those hungry, up-and-coming ECW mid-carders looking to move up. Now he must do his best to hold off challenges from the likes of Kid Kash.

CREDIBLE: I don't have time too worry about stuff like that. If I thought Francine would ever give me trouble, I'd have booted her ass a long time ago. Hey, I know how to keep broads in line. You don't see Chastity or Nicole Bass or Jason tagging along anymore, do you?

LENKER: Spoken like a man with confidence. But, Justin, don't you realize that even the most talented, driven wrestlers need an ally or two to stay on top?

CREDIBLE: Sorry, Mr. Magoo, I have to respectfully disagree with that dumb ass statement. I've just spent the last half-hour explaining why I'm not a team player. I ruined every hardcore icon this company ever had all by myself. I disgraced a so-called Japanese legend named The Great Sasuke all by myself. I snapped Mikey Whipwreck's leg in two all by myself. I carried Lance Storm for two damn good tag team title reigns. And I embarrassed Tommy Dreamer all by myself. You tell me why I need other people. The only person I depend on in that ring is me. Because I'm Justin Credible. □

WHO DOES HE REALLY HATE?

Someone Will Pay For All Austin's Pain!

By Dave Rosenbaum

STEVE AUSTIN HAD about 10 months to sit and stew. The neck and spinal injuries that nearly cost him his career—and still might result in a seriously slowed down "Stone-Cold"—resulted in the longest 11 months of his life. A year is a long time in pro wrestling, almost like five years in any other sport. To Austin, this past year felt like 20.

Not that the year was all bad. Austin's planned marriage to Debra was certainly the highlight of a year that saw him spend a lot of time healing and rehabilitating, a little time watching WWF television, and most of his time thinking about three things: who, when, and where.

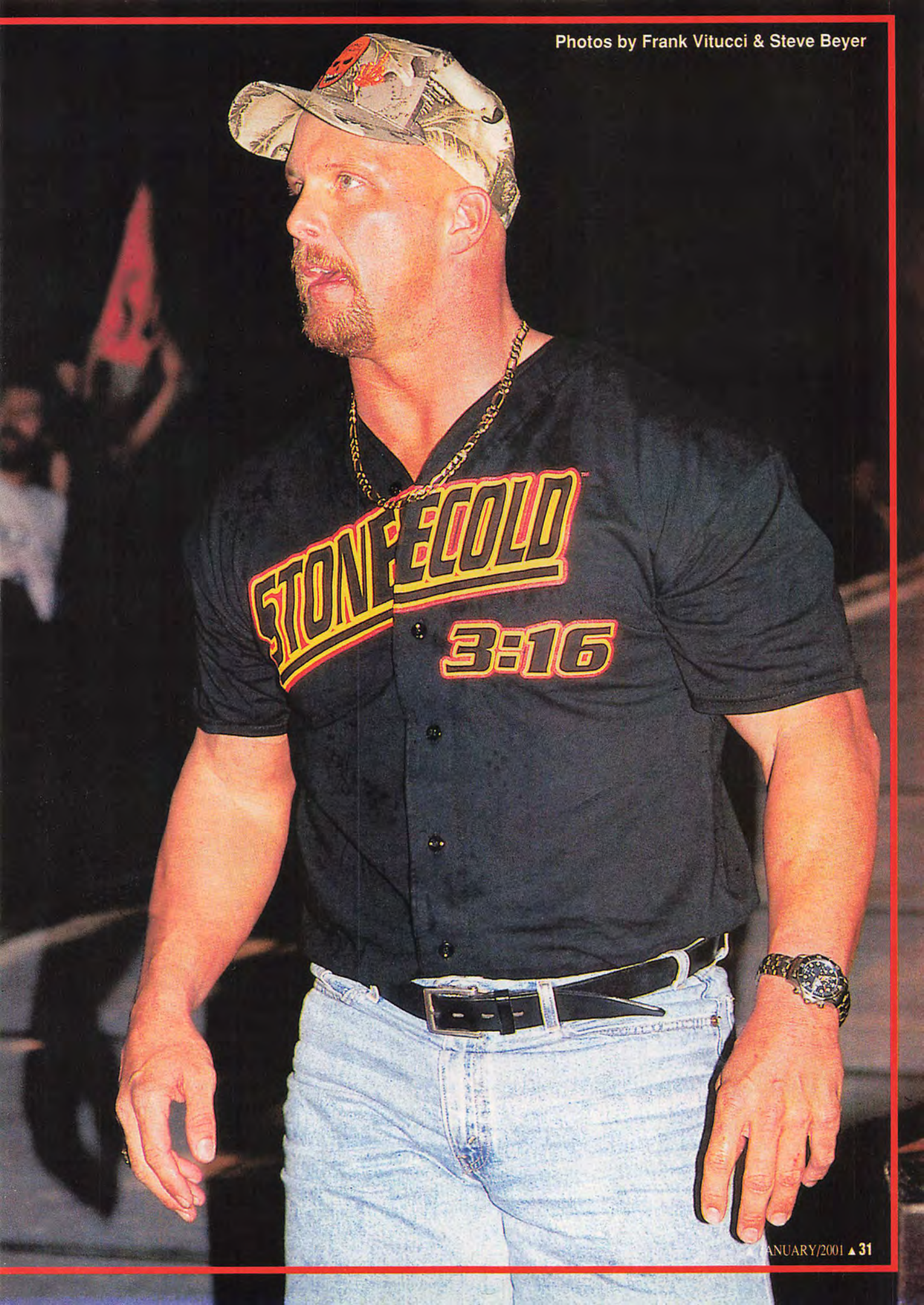
Who would pay for the year he spent away from the ring?

When would he get revenge against the men who have taken over the WWF in his absence?

And where would this revenge take place?

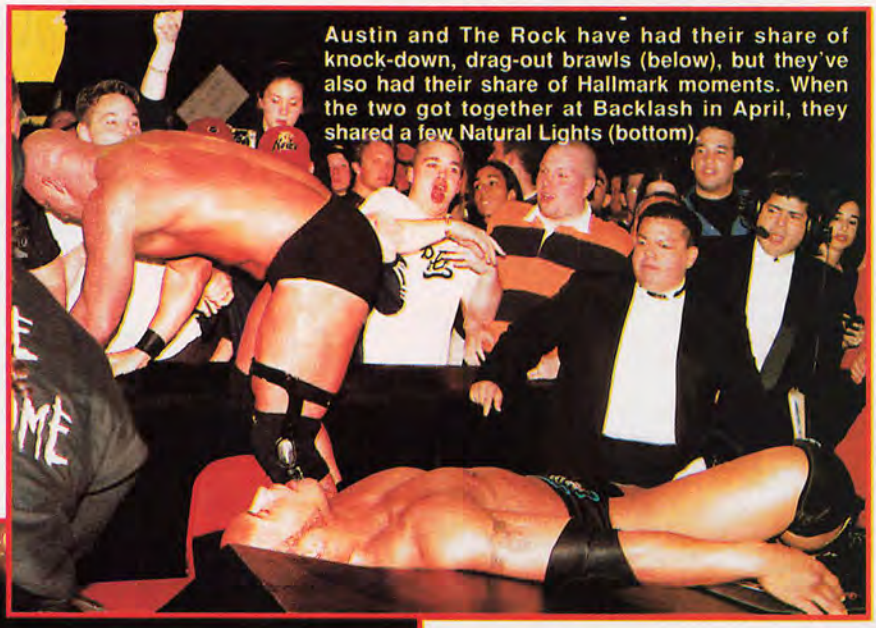
A bloody Steve Austin cracks open a beer and splashes the suds across the face of Shane McMahon. No doubt the entire McMahon family is feeling anxious now that "Stone-Cold" is ready to wreak havoc on the federation once again.

Photos by Frank Vitucci & Steve Beyer



"I've sat around and I had a lot of options that I could have done other than come back to wrestling," Austin told wwf.com. "But when it all boiled down to it, I love going out on WWF TV. I love being 'Stone-Cold' Steve Austin and raising hell and doing what I do. So this is my decision to come back, and I want to make the most of it."

Austin has never made any secret of the fact that he has no long-term friends in wrestling. Every wrestler and federation official in the WWF is a potential enemy. He didn't become the hottest star in pro wrestling by glad-handing men like WWF Chairman Vince McMahon and making sacrifices for fellow stars such as Triple-H, The Rock, and Mick Foley. "Stone-Cold" has always done what was in his own best interests.



Austin and The Rock have had their share of knock-down, drag-out brawls (below), but they've also had their share of Hallmark moments. When the two got together at Backlash in April, they shared a few Natural Lights (bottom).

So, as Austin prepared for his return, he reviewed the events that preceded his forced hiatus from wresting:

—A heated feud with Triple-H, who ambushed Austin on several occasions.

—The rental car that ran him over outside the arena prior to the 1999 Survivor Series was registered to The Rock. And when he was run over, Austin was chasing Triple-H backstage.

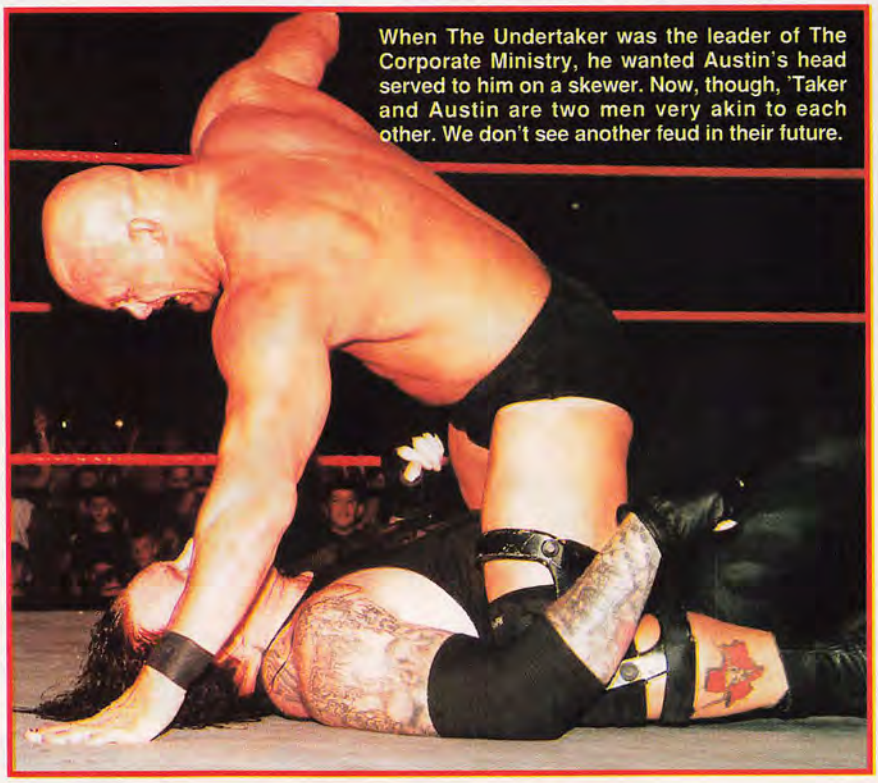
—Big Show's coup that night, which was to take advantage of Austin's absence from the three-way match that was supposed to involve Austin, The Rock, and Triple-H. Big Show took Austin's place and won the WWF World title with Vinnie Mac's help.

—Vince McMahon, for whom Austin has always had to keep a wary eye out. Although Austin and McMahon were on the same side when "Stone-Cold" was run down, Austin really didn't trust McMahon and thought he might have been at least partially responsible for running him over.

There are others, too. A few months prior to his return, Austin started keeping a sharp eye on the federation and noticed that several newcomers had made their move into a level just below superstardom: Kurt Angle, Chris Jericho, Chris Benoit, and Eddie Guerrero.

"A lot of people have stepped up

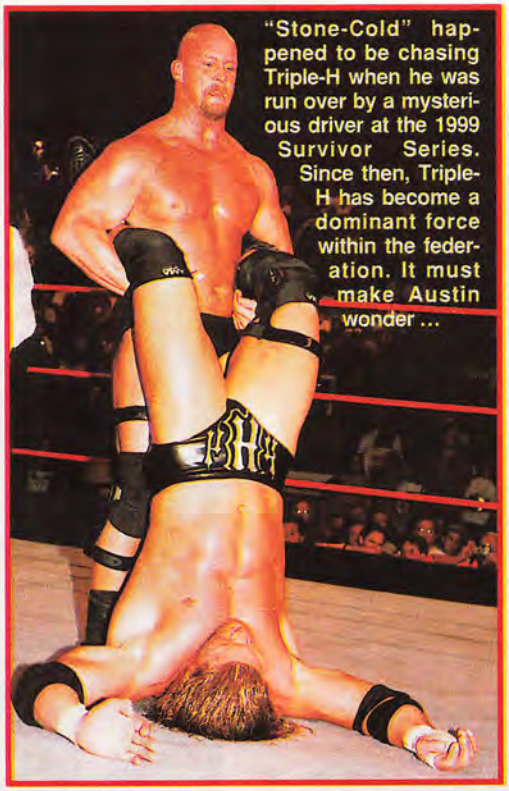
"Austin has never made any secret of the fact that he has no long-term friends in wrestling. Every wrestler and federation official in the WWF is a potential enemy."



When The Undertaker was the leader of The Corporate Ministry, he wanted Austin's head served to him on a skewer. Now, though, 'Taker and Austin are two men very akin to each other. We don't see another feud in their future.

and knocked home runs," Austin told wwf.com. "And some people have been disappointments, such as The Big Show. He kind of hasn't made the grade as he should have. So he doesn't really understand yet; maybe he's a little bit immature. This is the World Wrestling Federation; it takes a real sumbitch to step up there and knock a home run."

Austin is ready to knock a few, but with who? Federation insiders told PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED that Austin, the most popular man in wrestling prior to his injury, is prepared to make a run as the top bad guy in the federation. For that to happen, two other things would have to take place: Triple-H would likely have to establish himself as a solid fan favorite, and Austin would probably have to attack either him or The Rock.



"Stone-Cold" happened to be chasing Triple-H when he was run over by a mysterious driver at the 1999 Survivor Series. Since then, Triple-H has become a dominant force within the federation. It must make Austin wonder ...

But Kurt Angle's relationship with Stephanie McMahon set the stage for a Triple-H turn, and Austin has never been averse to attacking The Rock. Their love-hate relationship goes back four years, and peaked in late-1998, when The Rock won his first WWF World title. Although Austin outwardly professes his respect for the way The Rock has turned himself into a superstar, he has no intention of sharing the fans' popularity with his sometime friend/sometime enemy. And he'll have a hard time forgetting the incident at the 1999 Survivor Series, too.

"One thing people have to remember is that rattlesnakes have long memories," Austin warned. "I don't forget things easily. I may forgive, but I don't forget, and once you've screwed me, I always have it in the back of my mind that no matter how good things might be going between us, you just might screw me again. There's no such thing as friendship in this business. You can have allies, but you can't afford to have friends. Russia was an ally of the United States in World War II, and we saw what happened there."

There are four potential feuds that could keep the fans interested for a long time: Austin vs. Triple-H; Austin vs. The Rock; Austin vs. the McMahon family; and Austin vs. Kurt Angle. Angle is so obnoxious and so hated by the fans that anything Austin could do to silence him would be widely applauded. Another interesting possibility would be a battle of the spouses: Austin and Debra vs. Triple-H and Stephanie (or even Angle and Stephanie).

Whatever happens, Austin is ready for action. He is more determined than ever to show the world what "Stone-Cold" is made of.

"Hell yeah, there's going to be hell to pay—I'll assure you of that," Austin declared. "Believe me, I wasn't sitting around all that time thinking lovey-dovey thoughts about people. I'm ready to collect some debts." □

FAREWELL,

We all know what a great announcer Gordon Solie was. But as Jonard Solie (inset, with Eileen "Smokey" Solie and Gordon) explains, he was a wonderful father as well.

FATHER

A Tribute To Gordon Solie

By Jonard Solie

GORDON SOLIE WAS a celebrity in pro wrestling and in local radio by the early-1970s. At the time, much of Florida's population was more familiar with Gordon than I was. That may seem odd considering that I'm his son.

You see, I didn't know my father very well until I moved to the Tampa area at the age of 18. My parents had divorced when I was in the second grade, and my mom relocated to Illinois, where I grew up. Whenever I thought of him, it was as my father, Jonard Sjoblom—and not as Gordon Solie, the famous wrestling announcer.

My father, who was actually born Francis Jonard Labiack, was adopted as a youth and renamed Jonard Pierre Sjoblom. When my

"He treated wrestlers with utmost respect and believed his job was to put them over. But, by putting the wrestlers over and keeping fans on the edge of their seats, he got himself over as well."

PWI honored Gordon with the Editors' Award in 1989. There was never a more deserving recipient.

parents divorced, he legally changed his name to Gordon Solie. It was a combination of his mother's maiden name and another name from his mother's side of the family. I later changed my name to Solie, too.

Really, all those name changes were the most complex thing about my dad. He was a down-to-earth man who savored the simple joys of life.

The man later dubbed "The Dean Of Professional Wrestling" was born in Minneapolis on January 26, 1929. He met my mom, Betty, in Arkansas in 1949. After serving in Korea, he joined my mom in Tampa and embarked on an announcing career. He became the ring announcer for the Florida wrestling promotion in 1950, and owner Cowboy Luttrell made him the television announcer 10 years later.

When I became better acquainted with my father in the early-1970s, I was awed by the respect he commanded from his peers. And I'm not talking just about the wrestling business. Gordon read the morning and afternoon news at several radio stations in the Tampa area throughout the 1960s and '70s. He also devoted himself to his greatest love other than wrestling: stock car racing. He never missed a race on television, and if there were two airing simultaneously, he'd watch both races on different TV sets! Gordon also had the opportunity to be an announcer at the famed Golden Gate Speedway.

That illustrates how adventurous my dad was. He'd find a way to participate in anything that intrigued him.

As a result, Gordon traveled a lot. That's why he valued the time he spent at his lakeside home. He and his second wife, Eileen, also known as Smokey, were very much in love with each other. She was an artist, and they enjoyed going to art shows together. My dad's broad vocabulary, which was often on display when he called wrestling matches, was a result of the voluminous amount of reading he did. Gordon's idea of a relaxing evening was playing Scrabble and passing around a quart of

Baskin-Robbins peanut butter swirl ice cream.

Gordon was very funny, which contrasted with the poker-face style he projected on television. He kidded with people on the phone, often using different accents and creating his own characters.

My dad really showed his competitive streak whenever he shot pool. He was an excellent player. A plaque was presented to the winner of our family pool tournament each year. We had singles and doubles champions, and our tournament, which started at Christmas, sometimes lasted until Easter! Those were great times.

Nothing was more enjoyable than life in the Solie household. Gordon often adopted strays, so there were always plenty of animals around. At one point, I think Gordon and Smokey had five poodles, a woolly monkey, and a macaw. I'll never forget how Gordon would shut himself in that huge outside cage and tend to that parrot. There he was, every morning, pouring birdseed and slicing bananas.

As much as Gordon enjoyed being a homebody, he visited many places and met many interesting people. He loved hanging out with Don Curtis, Brian Blair, Harley Race, and especially Jack Brisco, whom Gordon thought was the best wrestler ever. He and Jack were very close. Most people don't know that my dad was a partner in the Brisco Brothers Body Shop at one time. Jack and many other wrestlers were loyal to him and brightened his life in his final days.

Wrestlers respected Gordon, both for his announcing skills and his personality. He helped wrestlers with their interviews and made sure they were comfortable in front of the camera. He treated wrestlers with utmost respect and believed his job was to put them over. But, by putting the wrestlers over and keeping fans on the edge of their seats, he got himself over as well.

Gordon was very dedicated to his job, too. He never took vacations if it meant missing a TV show. Gordon's hip was broken when he was shoved to the floor during a skirmish between wrestlers on the Georgia program. He received an artificial hip later that week, flew on a plane to do the show the next day, then went straight back to the hospital. At about the same time, *Entertainment Tonight* did a feature on wrestling and called Gordon "The Walter Cronkite Of Professional Wrestling." The secret to his success was that he never underestimated the intelligence of the fans and always strived to bring credibility to the business.

When Vince McMahon took over the *World Championship Wrestling* program on WTBS in 1984-85, he offered Gordon a job with the WWF.

(Continued on page 81)

Most of the very extended Solie family joined Gordon and Smokey for a family reunion at Jacksonville Beach in the mid-1990s (above). Gordon always enjoyed getting together with family and friends in smaller groups as well (below).

BOOK Excerpt!

SID VICIOUS

BODYSLAMS!

Memoirs of a Wrestling Pitchman

Gary Michael Cappetta

Former WWF and WCW Announcer

TELLY WRESTLING STARS IN 2am HOTEL KNIFE BRAWL

Grappling pals pull them apart

Enforcer . . bar brawl

Sid . . . stab wounds

TWO TV wrestling stars ended up in hospital yesterday after attacking each other in a late-night knife brawl in a hotel bar.

By GUY PATRICK

Sid Vicious and Arn 'The Enforcer' Anderson needed emergency treatment for stab wounds sustained in the 2am clash.

The fight started with a slanging match between the two grappling stars just hours before they were due to perform before 3,000 fans.

Other wrestlers and stunned drinkers struggled to separate them.

They had to be taken to hospital in two ambulances to keep them apart.

A witness at the Moat House Hotel in Blackburn said: "Both see themselves as top dog in the sport and don't like the other trying to grab the attention.

"Eventually blood had to flow. We just hope they call it a draw now."

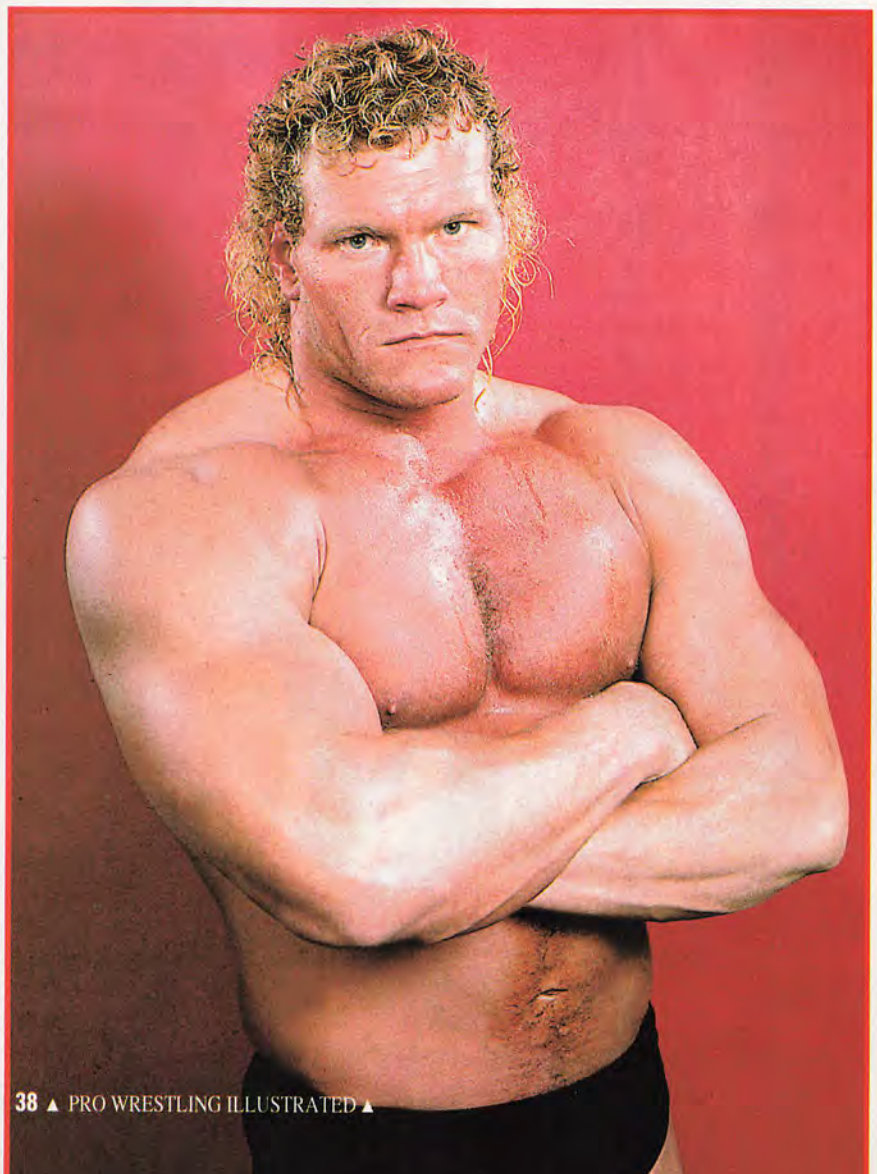
The American musclemen are world stars and are regularly seen by more than four million viewers on ITV.

They were due to fight in a string of "Hallowe'en Havoc" bouts organised by World Championship Wrestling at Blackburn Arena. But both were counted out.

Spiky-haired Vicious, 28, whose real name is Sidney Eudy, suffered stab wounds to the abdomen.

The heavyweight, who weighs 320lbs, is the man TV fans love to hate. He used to fight under the name Sid Justice.

His 32-year-old rival Anderson — 6ft 2in and 250lb Marti Lund — received



Twenty-one years, 2,400 events in 328 cities and seven countries, 38 NWA/WCW pay-per-views, 25 Clash of the Champions specials, and an estimated 14,600 matches introduced. That's Gary Michael Cappetta—strictly by the numbers.

If you followed wrestling anytime during the years 1974 to 1995, the name Gary Michael Cappetta should be a familiar one to you. During that time, Cappetta was one of the most respected ring announcers in the business. From 1974 to 1985, he worked for the WWF. When ESPN added wrestling to its schedule in 1985, he joined that network's broadcasting team and introduced AWA matches. Then, in 1989, he signed with WCW. In addition to his ring announcing duties there, Cappetta served as host for the Live Event Center on WCW TV and provided commentary on the company's Spanish language broadcasts.

Just imagine how many fascinating wrestling stories Cappetta could tell you.

*That's where **Bodyslams! Memoirs Of A Wrestling Pitchman** comes in. Though he had kept a diary on the road for*

vs. ARN ANDERSON

THEIR BLOODY HOTEL ROOM BRAWL!

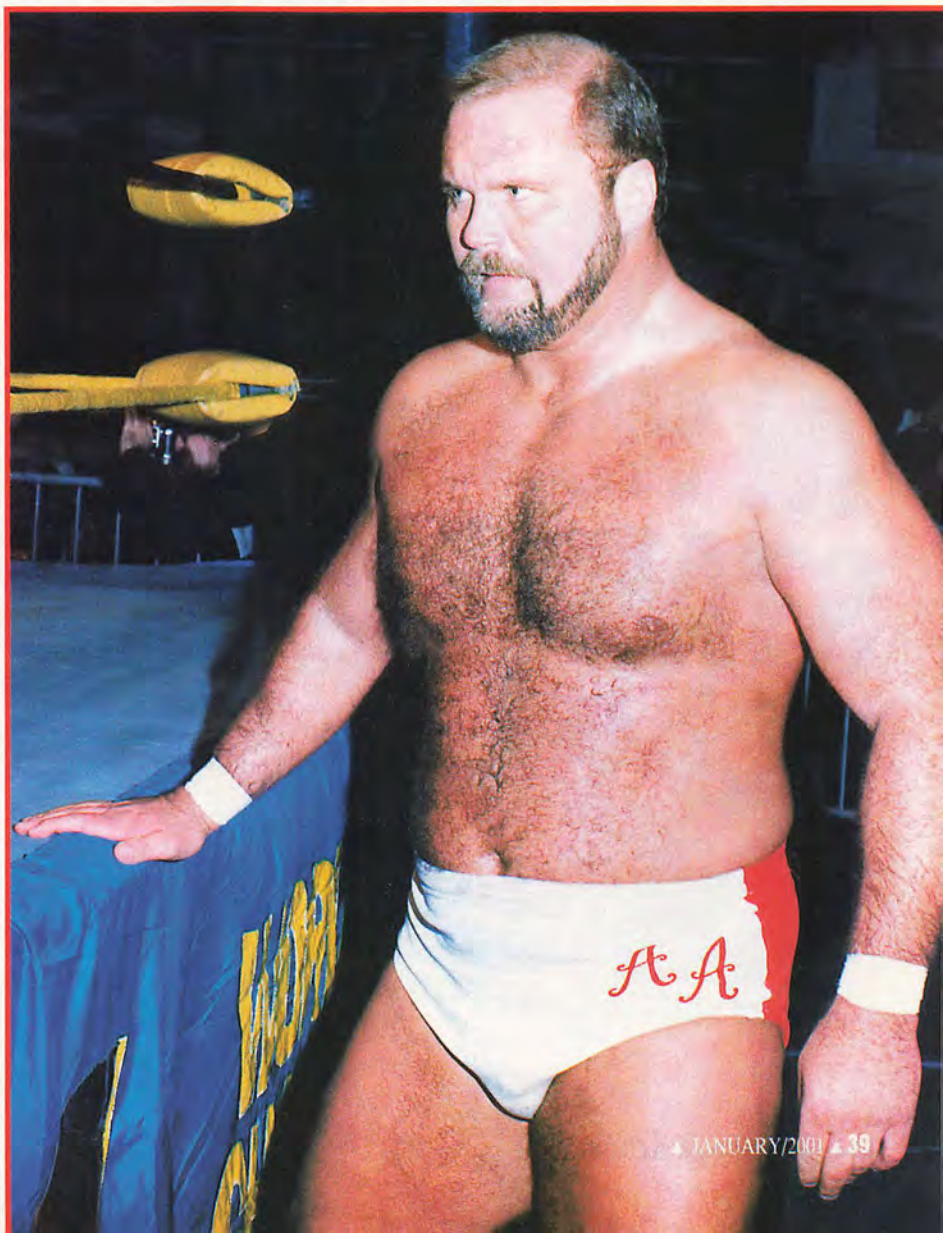
By Gary Michael Cappetta

years, it wasn't until after he left WCW in 1995 that Cappetta came up with the idea for a book that would detail his experiences inside the wrestling business. Now more than five years later, that work is finally complete. Vince McMahon Jr., Steve Austin, Ric Flair, The Undertaker, Mick Foley, Sting, Kevin Nash, the Steiners, Jesse Ventura, Buff Bagwell, Chris Benoit, Eric Bischoff, Ron Simmons (Faarooq), Vader, Luna Vachon, Jim Cornette, Lex Luger, the Von Erichs, Dusty Rhodes, Bob Backlund, Andre the Giant, Arn Anderson, Bruno Sammartino ... Cappetta has memories of and stories about all of them and many, many others. You can read them all, as ***Bodyslams!*** *is now available to the public at a cost of $19.95. You can order it by calling (toll-free) 1-866-BODYSLAMS or via the Internet at www.bodyslams.com.*

"I'm extremely proud of how ***Bodyslams!*** *turned out," Cappetta told* ***PWI.*** *"I honestly believe any fan who wants an insider's perspective on what really goes on behind the scenes in this business will enjoy it tremendously."*

Cappetta granted ***PWI*** *the exclusive right to publish the following excerpt from the book. It's the chapter in which he gives a riveting first-person account of the night Arn Anderson and Sid Vicious engaged in an infamous bloody hotel room brawl in England in October 1993.*

ON TUESDAY MORNING, the buses were waiting at Gatwick Airport for the 150-mile trek to Cardiff, Wales. The first event of the Halloween Havoc '93 tour would be held that same evening. We arrived at the Cardiff Marriott at noon, which allowed us just enough time to eat, take a short nap, and be ready to board



the bus once again at five for the short trip to the International Arena. After a fairly successful Cardiff show, we were whisked off once again for a late-night 160-mile journey to Blackburn, the site of the next night's event.

Although everyone was understandably exhausted, spirits were high and spirits were flowing throughout the motor coach that served as our home on wheels for the next week. Most of the seats in the bus were of the standard variety, facing forward. In some of the sections, pairs of seats faced each other and were separated by drop down tables with built-in drink holders. The rear quarter of the coach was separated from the rest of the seats by a bathroom. Equipped with a drop down bed, this back section of the specially built tour bus usually served as private quarters for the show's headliner. On this particular night, I shared the cubicle with Arn Anderson, tour manager Phil Bowdrey, and overflowing coolers of beer and soda.

As guys continually wandered back to the makeshift bar, we chatted about the upcoming stops and the number of tickets already sold. Arn, one of the most respected guys in the business, expressed his appreciation to Phil for the way that Barry Clayman Concerts took care of us. It was a relaxing conversation at the end of a nonstop five-day trek.

We arrived at the Moat House Hotel in Blackburn after midnight. The receptionist on duty was pleased to report that the lounge remained open as a courtesy to their American guests. The temptation was too great for several of the wrestlers to resist. So they moved the festivities from the bus to the bar and the boozing began once again. The rest of us dragged our sleep-deprived bodies off to our rooms to recuperate from the short naps, transatlantic antics, and late-night road trips of the preceding days. There was nothing that I desired more than a full night's sleep.

It was 1:00 when I finally plopped into bed for what I thought would be a sound, peaceful sleep. But the sounds that stirred me from slumber were far from peaceful. Shouting and pounding jolted me back into consciousness. My first thought was that the boys were just rough-housing up and down the hall. I then realized that the racket was taking place just outside my door. Seconds later, I heard thunderous thumps, or whacks against either the walls or the doors or both. I couldn't be sure. The pictures and mirrors that hung in my room vibrated from the power of each impact. I quickly became convinced that this wrestling was for real.

Alarmed, I moved closer to the door. Without a security peephole to see what was happening on the other side, I impulsively reached for the doorknob. Between the smacking sounds, which continued without pause, I heard the intense, persistent shrieks of a determined but desperate voice. It was the voice of Sid Vicious.

"Arn, I've had enough." A few seconds of silence, then a whack. "Arn, it's got to end." A little more agitated. Another whack. "Arn, let's settle this right now." I heard the door across the hall burst open, a smack of flesh, and the struggling of two bodies bouncing off walls. Heavy, heaving grunts and groans.

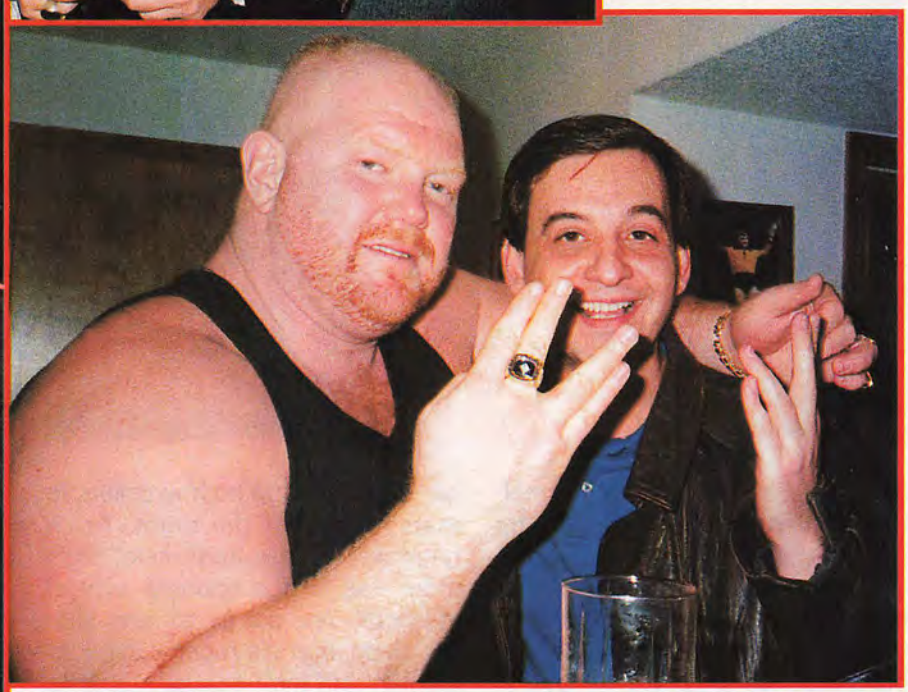
During this scene of sounds, I nervously backed away from the door. Then I couldn't move. I should have. I should have picked up the phone to call for

help. But I didn't. I couldn't. I was frozen in fear.

By the time I regained my composure, the commotion subsided into quiet murmurs of concern and shock at the bloody aftermath of the fight. Sid was removed from the scene as the boys huddled around Arn in the crimson-splattered hall. WCW's head of security, Doug Dellinger, and Vader inspected the lacerations that covered the face and upper body of their bewildered and bloody friend. Arn looked up at Vader repeating over and over again, "Leon, you know me. I don't carry a knife. You know me, brother. I never carry a knife."

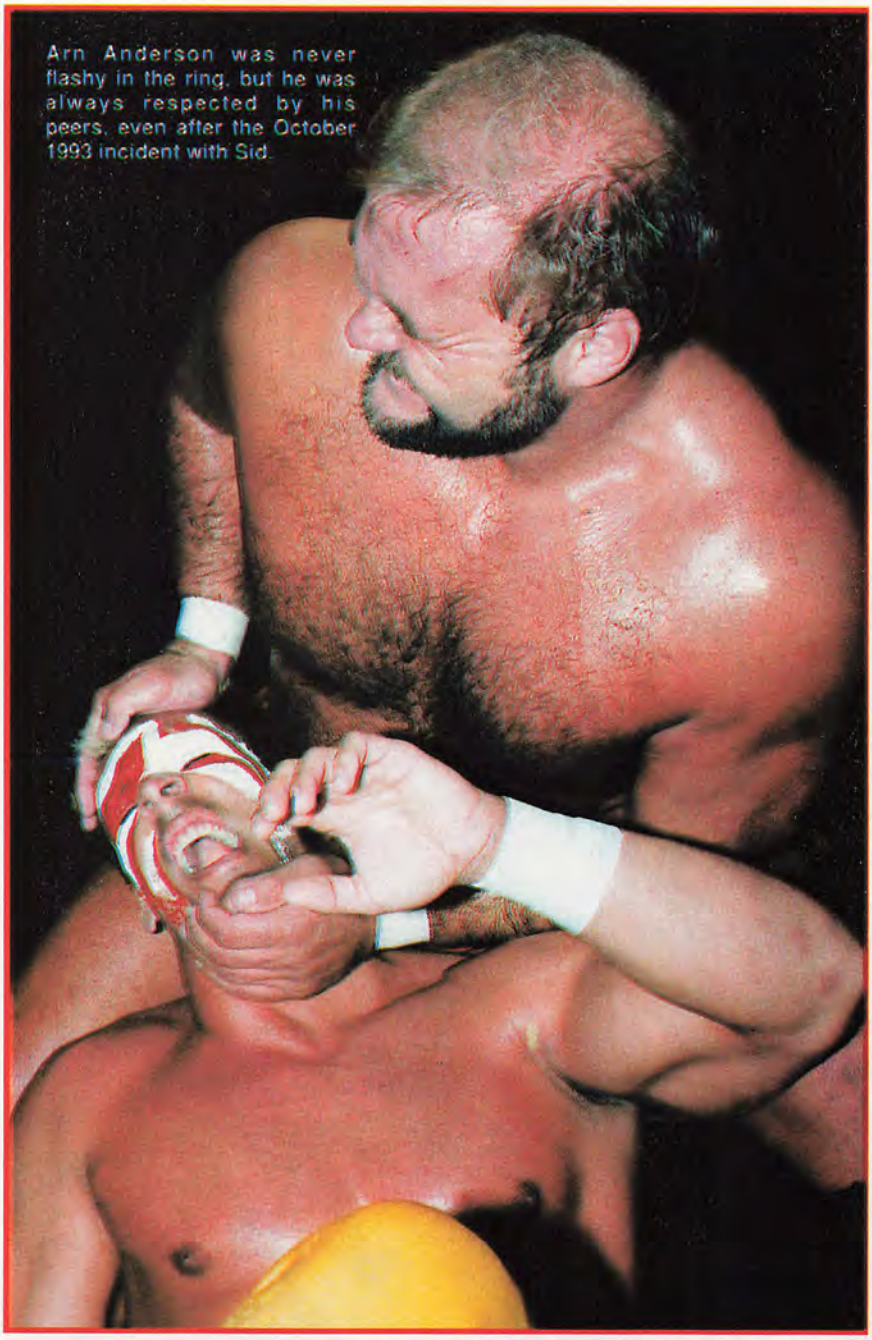
By now, the Blackburn police and emergency squad members had joined the crowd. Both wrestlers were taken to the hospital, and we were left to sort out exactly what had transpired.

Blame it on too little sleep and too much alcohol. If not in Blackburn, it could have been London or Munich or Hamburg. Or Birmingham, England, or Alabama. Given the circumstances, it was bound to happen. The only surprise was that it didn't happen sooner.



Gary Michael Cappetta with Andre the Giant and Bruno Sammartino (top), with Ric Flair (left), and with Vader (above), all men he got to know very well during his 21-year career as a ring announcer. All four wrestlers are featured prominently in *Bodyslams! Memoirs Of A Wrestling Pitchman.*

The bad blood began to boil in the hotel bar when the conversation turned to the politics and the pecking order within WCW. Arn defended his best buddy and booker, Ric Flair, when Vicious



Arn Anderson was never flashy in the ring, but he was always respected by his peers, even after the October 1993 incident with Sid.

accused Flair of unfairly promoting his pals instead of the wrestlers who could draw money. Sid sees himself as a draw. And he knows Anderson and Flair are pals. They are really more like brothers. He was well aware of the bond and the loyalty that for years had existed between the two veterans.

Arn aimed for Sid's sore spot, with disparaging remarks about his limited wrestling ability and overrated reputation. When voices were raised and threats were traded, Dellinger sent both wrestlers to their rooms for the night. Arn's room was across from mine. Sid's room was on the opposite side of the hotel. Arn did as he was told. Sid stopped at his room, picked up a chair, and then carried it over to our corridor.

He was like a man possessed. Like a wounded animal that found itself trapped. Wounded by Arn's words, trapped by their inescapable truth. Sid returned for revenge. This was no longer the result of lips loosened by alcohol and hurt feelings. This was a premeditated attack. Arn, whose barbs can be biting, had hit the bull's-eye with his verbal assault. Sid, incapable of countering, retaliated the only way he knew how. Once Arn was lured into the hall, Sid was armed for the ambush.

The battering of Sid's chair against Arn's door explained the power-packed thumps that had vibrated the walls of my room. When the repeated pounding and taunts continued, Arn grabbed the only weapon he had with which to protect himself, a pair of scissors from his grooming kit. When he opened the door, Vicious cracked him over the head with the chair. The two then wrestled for control of the shears, stabbing each other as they bounced off the walls.

If you had scored the fight from the gashes, which scarred both men's bodies, Sid would be declared the winner. But judging from the sentiments expressed by the wrestlers, it was no contest. Arn was the crowd favorite. You'd have to know these two guys to understand why.

Sid and Arn come from places as far apart as can be. Each views the wrestling business from an entirely opposite perspective. The ease with which Sid came by his success has caused him to show little appreciation for his position. For Arn, on the other hand, it's a matter of pride. He has worked long and hard to rise to the top of his game. The respect that he shows for his craft has been formed from overcoming challenges that Sid has never faced.

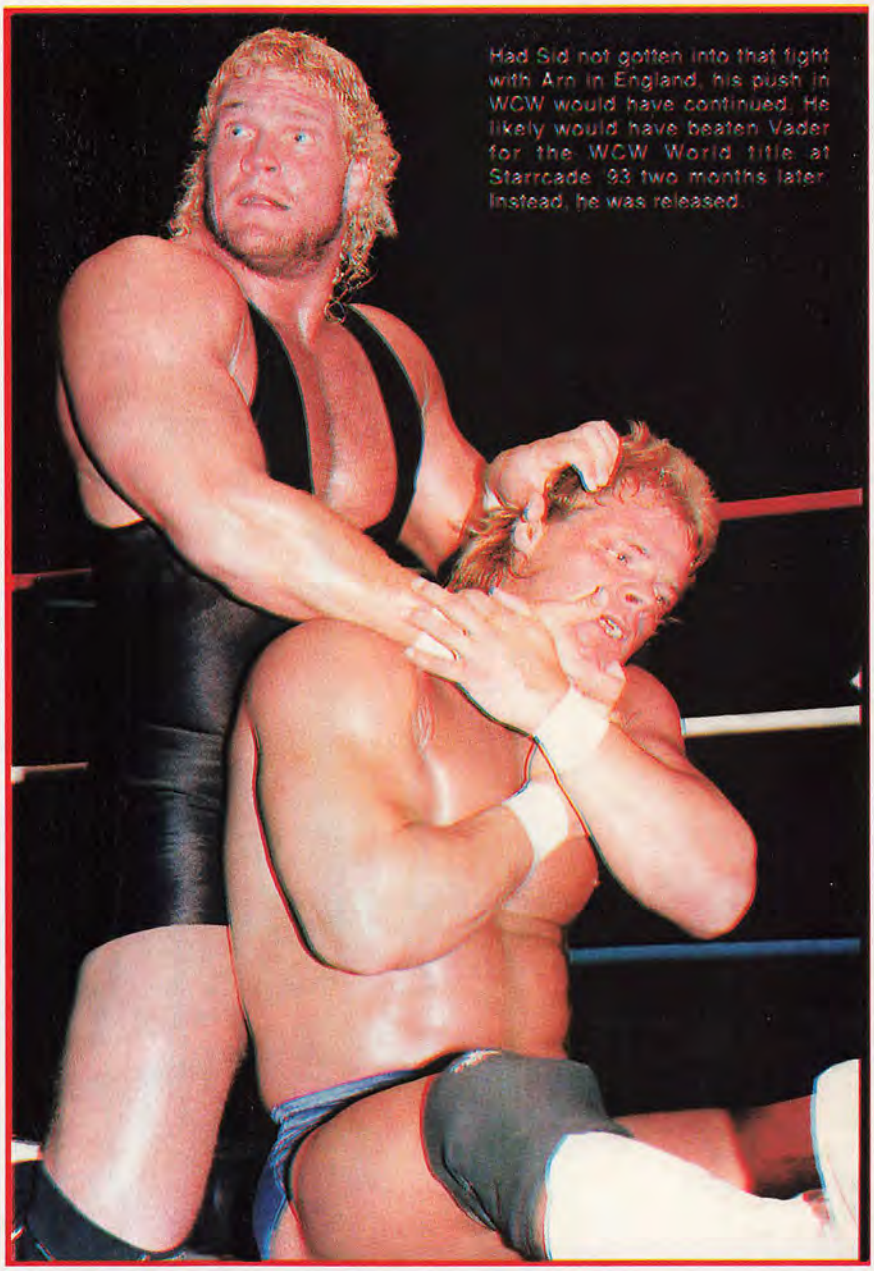
Sid is blessed with the genetics of Superman and the luck of an Irishman, but is shackled by the ignorance and the arrogance of a street-tough hoodlum. He has been known to sit out bookings to play softball for his hometown team. He thinks nothing of walking out on a promotion without regard

to contracts. Forget contracts. What about doing what's right? What about professionalism? He has repeated these stunts time and again, believing that he will always be hired back. And he usually is. Despite the fact that beyond his "monster look," he is only a mediocre worker, Sid repeatedly has been rewarded with headlining positions by the promoters he screws. That has been his experience.

Arn, on the other hand, is of average stature and has made his mark in the wrestling world not on appearance, but by perfecting his ring work. His consistently solid performances, along with a reputation as a team player, make up for the "monster look" that he does not and never can possess. His interview skills are second to none. He has agreed to take pay cuts instead of losing his position, yet never shortchanges the promoters or his co-workers or the fans.

When a prima donna the likes of Sid contentiously accuses a dedicated loyalist the likes of Arn of maintaining his position because of patronage, there's bound to be a fight. It was not surprising that the WCW and WWF wrestlers who know both men were overwhelmingly in Arn's corner.

The immediate reaction of the boys on tour was one of sadness. There was an outpouring of concern for Arn's health, as well as uneasiness as to how the fight and all of the press coverage that followed might affect his position with the company. As was often the case, some of the guys found humor in what had happened. Maybe it was their way of coping. Perhaps it's a callousness developed from being exposed to so much lunacy day in and day out. It took only hours for Marc Mero and Marc Bagwell to commemorate the incident with a Muhammad Ali-style poem as delivered by Mero in his best Little Richard impersonation.



Had Sid not gotten into that fight with Arn in England, his push in WCW would have continued. He likely would have beaten Vader for the WCW World title at Starrcade '93 two months later. Instead, he was released.

When I'm in the shower, I'm afraid to wash my hair,

I might open my eyes and Psycho Sid will be standing there.

Some people think I'm crazy, maybe a little touched,

But showers remind me of Sid Vicious too much.

When I opened the door, he hit me with a chair,

I said, "Sid Vicious, you know that isn't fair."

So I got a pair of scissors and stabbed him in the gut,

You should have seen Sid Vicious bleed from that cut.

He staggered and stumbled, and down the hall he fell,

How can you rule the world when you can't even rule the hotel?

The buzz around the locker rooms lasted for months. The buzz by ringside observers continues to this day. Arn and Sid's hotel grudge match has been talked about almost as much as an eerie incident that happened in March of 1994. It was on a tour of Germany. It was in Munich when Cactus Jack lost his ... uh ... well, you'd better let me set the stage for yet another horrific happening in which I unwittingly became a major player. □

STROKE OF LUCK

Since losing the World title to Booker T at Bash at the Beach, Jarrett has become a more intense and focused performer. Perhaps losing the title and Russo's over-support is exactly what the Tennessee native needed.

Jeff Jarrett Should Be Thankful He's "The Forgotten One"

By Dave Rosenbaum

THERE ARE TIMES when knowing the right people is the greatest advantage an upward-riser can have. And then there are times when the right people are the wrong people, because knowing those people puts you on the opposite side from the people who can do you the most damage. Confused? Well, you should be.

At a recent *Nitro*, Jeff Jarrett squared off against Booker T for the WCW World heavyweight title. Jarrett knew this would be his final shot at Booker T and was prepared to give his best effort. Booker T, on the other hand, was still smarting from an injury suffered at the hands of Jarrett the night before at New Blood Rising, when Jarrett repeatedly slammed T's leg in a car door. Jarrett dominated most of the match at *Nitro* and was about to win when he scored with the stroke and went for the cover.

But just as referee Charles Robinson was about to make the three-count, Bill Goldberg pulled Jarrett from the ring and threw him into the crowd.

A few seconds later, Goldberg left no doubt about the reason for his actions: He was going through Jarrett to get at Vince Russo.

"That's the price you pay for being associated with Russo," Goldberg told reporters afterward. "Now, though, we all know what Jarrett's so-called stroke got him. He'd be best advised to forget that he ever knew Vince Russo."

Goldberg's warning went unheeded by Jarrett, but the truth of the statement is hard to deny: As long as Russo is one of the most

Was Jarrett too disgusted with himself after the Hulk Hogan debacle to concentrate on defending against Booker at Bash at the Beach? Possibly, but maybe hearing Russo praise Booker distracted him even more that night.

hated men in WCW, anyone associated with him is going to be targeted by Russo's enemies. That's the bad news for Jarrett. The good news is that he has been pushed down on Russo's list of priorities because of the creative director's troubles with Goldberg and Hulk Hogan.

"The Chosen One" has become "The Forgotten One" ... and there's nothing wrong with that. Even the former WCW World champion himself seems to realize that he might be better off trying to get by on his God-given abilities alone, rather than by constantly depending upon his relationship with Russo.

"Yeah, I got all the stroke in WCW, but even without it, I'd still be at the top," Jarrett said. "The reason Russo talks about me all the time is because he's a good enough judge of talent to know greatness when he sees it. If he wants Kevin Nash to carry the ball for a while, that's fine with me, 'cause I'll just keep on doing what I've been doing all along, and that's winning wrestling matches."

Whether he's "The Chosen One" or "The Forgotten One," Jarrett has become the less-frequently targeted one now that he's no longer WCW World champion or the number-one contender to the World title. He even didn't appear on several recent editions of *Thunder*. Russo's brief but tumultuous relationship with

At Spring Stampede, Jeff Jarrett captured his first WCW World title. Since that night, The New Blood has disintegrated. Jarrett, however, has shown himself to be the only member with real staying power.

Booker T pushed Jarrett further back on the backburner, and he quickly became number four in WCW's top rulebreaker quartet (the other three members of "The Band," Kevin Nash, Bret Hart, and Scott Steiner are clearly above him).

That's a good thing, because Jarrett is talented enough to get by on his own. He might even want to distance himself from that group for a while and see how his career progresses. He has long been one of the finest technical wrestlers in the world.

Unfortunately, his skill was overshadowed by his relationship with Russo. People thought he was a three-time WCW World champion because Russo wanted him to be champion. Of course, Jarrett always got away with hitting his opponents over the head with his guitar.

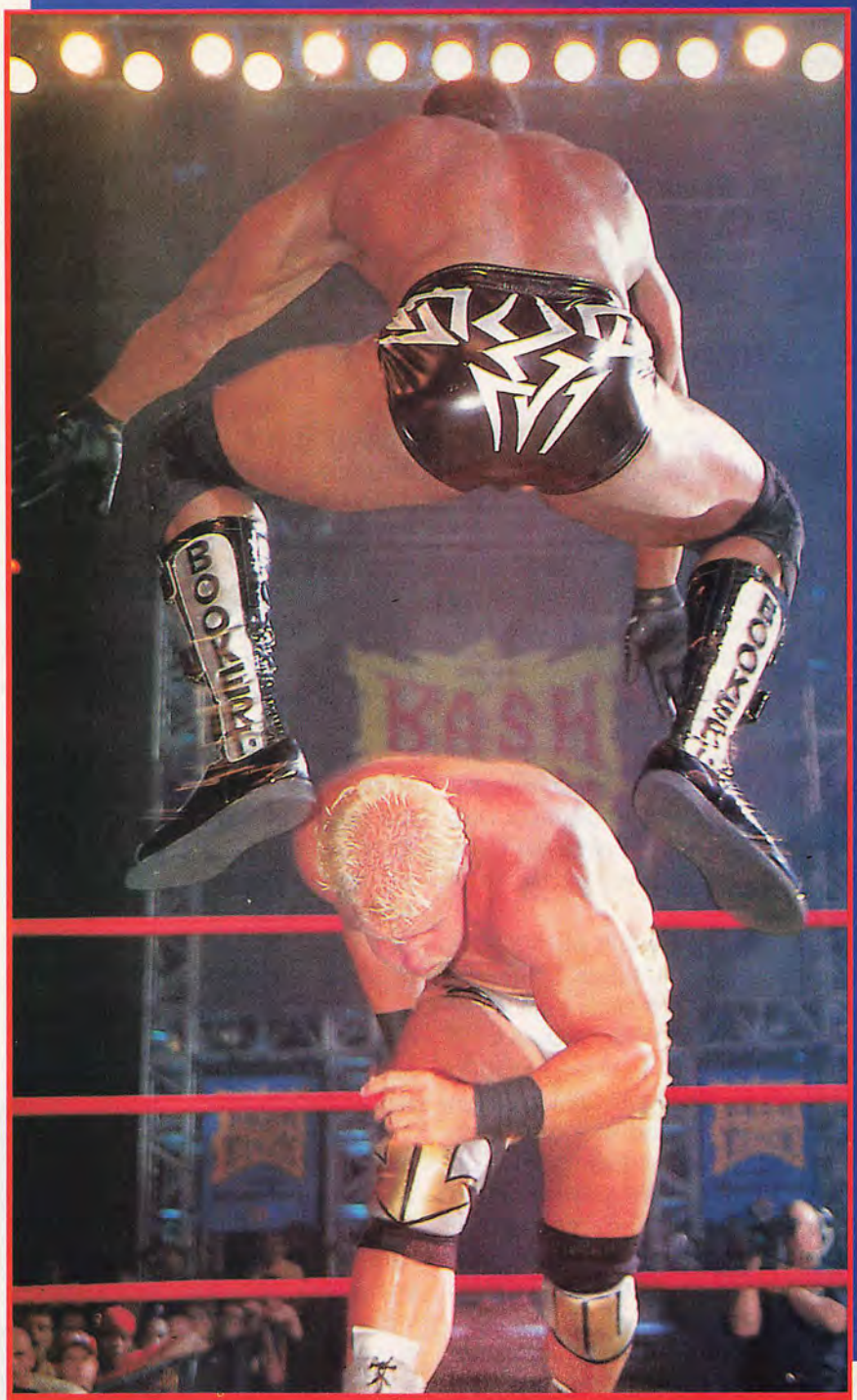
And there was a perception among many long-time Jarrett watchers that he had become a lazy wrestler because he knew he didn't have to work his hardest to get a big push. Since being pushed to the side, Jarrett is relying less on interference, at least in his own matches.

If and when he gets back into the World title mix, or even regains the WCW World title, he will have done it on his own.

"Perceptions are hard to shake in this sport," said WCW commentator Mike Tenay. "It's like it was with Ric Flair. Ric Flair is one of the greatest technical wrestlers of all-time, but his ring ability was often overshadowed by his work on the microphone, the women who were always surrounding him, and The Four Horsemen. Sometimes you forgot just how great a wrestler Ric Flair could be.

"The same is true of Jeff Jarrett. Long before he ever met Vince Russo, Jarrett was a talented wrestler capable of winning major titles. Not only is he a three-time WCW World champion, but he's a former U.S. champion. He was a major star in the WWF for many years. But I think Jarrett liked the idea of being an inside guy, and he let it go to his head. After trying so hard for so many years, he could finally coast a bit. But he's not coasting anymore."

Jarrett's ego and cockiness will likely prevent him from making many friends among WCW fans and fan favorites, and he is still a member of a group that looks a lot like the NWO. But as Goldberg has proven, not all friendships are a good thing. It's not always helpful to have an inside connection. Jarrett needs nobody but himself to be successful. □



Even if Jarrett never again captures the WCW World title, his performance in recent months more than made up for the fact that he cheated his way for the top. Getting lost in the mix may have been a good thing.

THE BUSINESS PAGE

By Harry Burkett

New records for the WWF? Vince McMahon could refer to himself as "the Tiger Woods of sports entertainment." McMahon is no longer in his 20s, but his company is so far ahead of the competition that it isn't a fair fight anymore. Dominating WCW is no longer proof that McMahon and the WWF are at the top of their game. Like Tiger Woods, who has run out of viable opponents on the golf course, the WWF is now in competition with itself. There's nothing quite like trying to surpass your own previous achievements.

Can the WWF top its phenomenal Monday night numbers, somehow surpassing the 7.0s and reach 8.0 or even 9.0? The WWF's deal with Viacom and *Raw's* pending jump to TNN are evidence that the McMahon family isn't satisfied with the status quo. If TNN does a more vigorous job of promoting WWF programming than USA did (and surpasses its own sloppy promotion of ECW), the added exposure could attract even more viewers.

In addition, the WWF is on the verge of a creative resurgence. The Rock vs. Triple-H is still one of the promotion's main event attractions, and other WWF stars have relied on tried-and-true routines (such as Edge and Christian's six-second poses) to keep pace. The WWF has taken advantage of this unprecedented period of growth by cultivating new main-eventers such as Kurt Angle, Chris Jericho, and Chris Benoit. Meanwhile, the lovers' triangle featuring Triple-H, Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley, and Kurt Angle has been developing at a slow but very effective pace.

The Helmsley-Stephanie-Angle storyline is about to reach its climax, most likely with Angle replacing Triple-H as the WWF's top villain. Triple-H's turn is taking place gradually, with "The Game" receiving a louder ovation with each passing week.

With the added dynamic of Triple-H as a mega-fan favorite, consider the return of Steve Austin. Where does he fit in the scenario? Imagine the sight of "Stone-Cold" chewing out Angle. Or teaming with Triple-H. Or turning against The Rock. The possibilities are endless.

So far this year, the WWF has been sailing along at a comfortable pace. Just wait until the McMahons kick it into high gear.

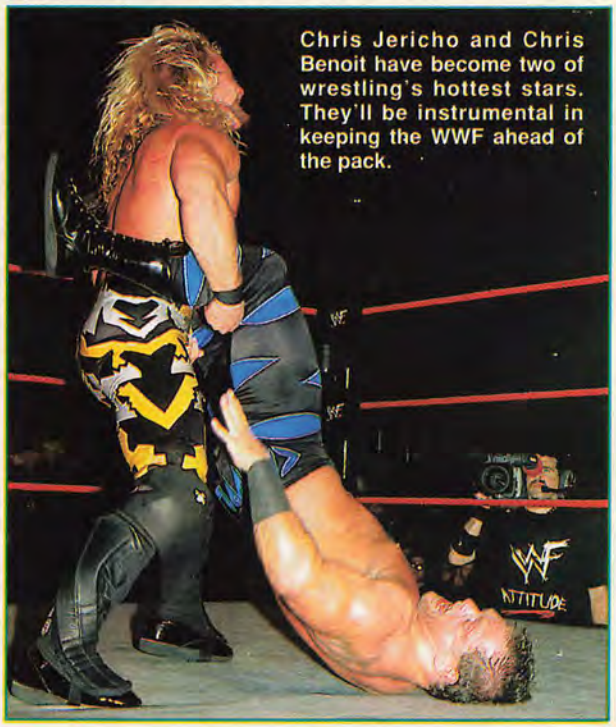
Survivor Smackdown ... "Killer" Kelly Wiglesworth and "Scandalous" Susan Hawk could headline any wrestling pay-per-view. But these two newcomers won't be fighting for a women's championship. These two rivals are from CBS' top-rated summer series, *Survivor*.

They had been allies on the reality series until Susan, 38, accused Kelly, 23, of betraying her. Susan was voted off the island—but she didn't go quietly. She told Kelly on the last episode of 2000, "If I were ever to pass you along in life again, and you were laying there dying of thirst, I would not give you a drink of water! I would let the vultures take you!"

Only a few weeks after Susan unleashed that diatribe and called Kelly a rat, the *New York Post* reported that the WWF, WCW, and ECW were eager to have the women wrestle each other on pay-per-view. Susan, a truck driver, and Kelly, a river tour guide, discussed the possibility on *The Early Show* with Bryant Gumbel and referred to the food they hated eating most on the island. "The first one to make the other swallow tapioca wins," joked Susan.

The E! network reported that the WWF has already made a hefty offer to the women. Industry insiders say WCW might be willing to commit even more money. Paul Heyman of ECW is the only federation head to publicly express interest.

Gore vs. Bush on PPV? The WWF held a press conference to challenge Vice President Al Gore and Texas Governor George W. Bush to go one-on-one. The two presidential candidates aren't expected to trade wristlocks or leglocks, however. As part of its nonpartisan "Smackdown



Chris Jericho and Chris Benoit have become two of wrestling's hottest stars. They'll be instrumental in keeping the WWF ahead of the pack.

Your Vote" campaign, the WWF invited Gore and Bush to a future edition of *Smackdown* for a debate moderated by Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura.

The event was co-hosted by the WWF and Youth Vote 2000. Chyna said she wanted "to see candidates debate the issues that young people would care about" and said she became more interested in politics as she earned more money and paid more taxes. Commissioner Mick Foley reasserted that it was a serious challenge, but, joking about Gore's enthusiastic kiss of his wife before his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, said the Vice President's public displays of affection might be too much for WWF programming.

Women's champion Lita said there would be an online petition to urge the candidates to accept the invitation. Angle, the Olympic gold medalist, added that he was a longtime voter and encouraged fans to visit the WWF's Web site to register. Other speakers included WWF CEO Linda McMahon and Youth Vote 2000 Executive Director Julia Cohen.

Despite The Rock's prominent role at the Republican National Convention and The Rock and Chyna's appearances at the Democratic Convention, neither candidate had accepted the invitation as of press time.

It's not quite the "PWI 500" ... The Rock ranked number six in *Access Hollywood's* prime-time special *The Top 10 Celebrities Of 2000.* Reporter Nancy O'Dell interviewed the WWF World champion during the August 14 *Raw* in Providence, Rhode Island. In-ring highlights of The Rock were shown during the five-minute feature. Also, The Rock discussed his wrestling character and his budding acting career.

During the interview, The Rock discussed the possibility of a prequel movie that would focus on the Scorpion King, the character he played in *Mummy II.* The *Access Hollywood* special aired on August 29.

The best name there is, was, and ever will be ... The XFL, the new football league owned by WWFE and NBC, might have to go to court to retain the name of its New York/New Jersey franchise, the Hitmen. They aren't catching grief from the New York Chamber of Commerce, but from the Calgary Hitmen hockey team, according to Bloomberg News.

Ironically, Bret "Hitman" Hart, one of Vince McMahon's most controversial employees ever, was a co-owner of the Calgary Hitmen at one time. Two years after joining the Western Hockey League as an expansion team, the Hitmen were sold to the Calgary Flames. Today, the Flames claim to own the trademark for the Hitmen, one of their minor league affiliates.

Former Dallas Cowboys great and current New York/New Jersey Hitmen GM Drew Pearson hands off to WWFE Chairman Vince McMahon. The Hitmen, because of their controversial name, could wind up in court even before they take the field.

WWFE STOCKWATCH

(For the period of August 1-31)

30-Day High: $21^{11}/_{16}$ on August 1
30-Day Low: $18^{3}/_{8}$ on August 25 and 28
52-Week High: 34
52-Week Low: $9^{3}/_{4}$

WWF Entertainment Inc. announced its revenues were up by an amazing 34 percent in the first quarter, jumping from $76.2-million (last year's first quarter totals) to $101.9-million. Actual net income increased from $12.5-million to $15.2-million, a total of 22 percent. Expenses associated with the startup of the XFL were $1-million. WWFE has experienced steady growth since going public in October 1999.

According to Business Wire, Linda McMahon was very happy with the first-quarter findings. "During the quarter, we continued to make great strides in our goal to create and build the XFL," she said. McMahon also noted the success of WWF New York

WWFE experienced double-digit growth in live events, pay-per-views, television advertising, and TV rights fees. High ratings for *Raw* and *Smackdown* and further expansion of international markets were key factors.

The absence of Steve Austin hasn't adversely affected branded merchandise revenues, which rose by seven percent to $26.7-million. Merchandising sales were helped by the opening of WWF New York, an entertainment complex and restaurant in Times Square. Home video revenues dropped because the release of some tapes were postponed until the next quarter.

No wonder *Business Week* ranked WWFE number three on its annual list of America's 100 best small companies. If the XFL gets underway and turns a profit, WWFE numbers should rise even higher.

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS (Note: Each ratings point represents 750,000 households.)

AUGUST 7

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.1	5.1	5.9	6.1	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.9	7.8	6.3 (5.5*)
Nitro	2.2	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.2	—	—	—	—	—	2.5 (2.2*)

*Head-to-head composite

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: ***Raw*** **jumped an entire point when** ***Nitro*** **went off the air at 10 p.m. Eastern time. During that quarter-hour, a promo featuring Triple-H and Kurt Angle led into the title match between WWF World champion The Rock and Chris Benoit.** ***Raw*** **doubled** ***Nitro's*** **ratings in the head-to-head hour and in some cases tripled** ***Nitro's*** **numbers. The main event overrun reached 7.8, almost gaining the elusive 8.0 score.**

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

AUGUST 14

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	4.8	4.9	5.5	5.8	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	7.2	5.9 (5.2*)
Nitro	2.0	2.6	3.0	3.2	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9	—	—	—	—	2.6	2.4 (2.1*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: ***Raw*** **went on cruise control in the second hour, scoring solid 6.5s in 10Q, 11Q, and 12Q. DX-Rikishi, Val Venis-Chris Jericho, and The Acolytes-Kaientai were among the matches. The Sting-Dark Carnival feud may be bizarre, but it's not drawing ratings for** ***Nitro.*** **A weird handicap match featuring Sting vs. The Great Muta, Vampiro, and The Demon sunk the ratings to a dismal 1.9. And Sting won a popularity contest on WCW's Web site to earn a shot at Booker T? Scary. Sting-Dark Carnival aired opposite an Edge/Christian/Mick Foley promo, along with Undertaker vs. Chris Benoit.**

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

AUGUST 21

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.0	6.2	6.2	6.0	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.3	7.7	6.2 (5.8*)
Nitro	2.4	2.9	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.2	2.0	2.8	—	—	—	—	2.6	2.6 (2.4*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: ***Nitro's*** **fourth quarter-hour, the lead-in to** ***Raw,*** **remains its strongest. As a result, The Natural Born Thrillers—WCW's superstars-in-training—had the honor of being involved in** ***Nitro's*** **highest-rated segment, a 3.2. But what was Vince Russo thinking by pitting WCW champ Booker T vs. Chuck Palumbo during the next segment, the first quarter-hour against** ***Raw?*** **The WWF's weakest segment continues to be its first, but it gathers steady momentum through the show, peaking in the overrun.**

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

AUGUST 28

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	4.3	4.9	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	4.6	5.1	4.9
Nitro	2.6	3.1	3.2	3.3	4.1	3.8	3.8	4.1	—	—	—	—	—	3.5

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: **Before you call your neighbors about the WWF's big tumble, remember that** ***Raw*** **aired at 11 p.m. EDT, three hours later than its usual time slot.** ***Nitro,*** **running unopposed in the East, drew a 4.1 for the match in which Kevin Nash defeated Booker T for the WCW World title. A Big Vito/Bill Goldberg/Vince Russo segment and a match between The Great Muta and Sting also drew a 4.1. WCW isn't reliving its glory days, but those 4.1 numbers must have looked nice. That might not happen again once the WWF moves to TNN and is no longer pre-empted by tennis tournaments and dog shows.**

OTHER BIG THREE NETWORK & CABLE SHOWS

(For the weeks of August 5, 12, 19, and 26, respectively)

WWF

Smackdown (UPN): 4.6, 4.7, 4.7, 4.3*

Sunday Night Heat **(USA): 2.6, 2.7, 2.7, 2.5**

Livewire **(USA): 1.1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.1**

Superstars **(USA): 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.2**

***Broadcast ratings**

WCW

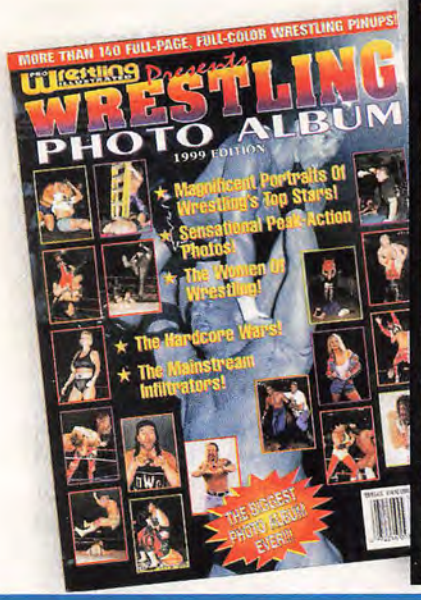
Thunder **(TBS): 2.3, 2.4, 2.3, 1.9**

WCW Saturday Morning* **(TBS): 0.6, 0.9, 0.6**

***Final show aired on August 19**

ECW

ECW On TNN: **0.8, 0.9, 1.0, 0.8**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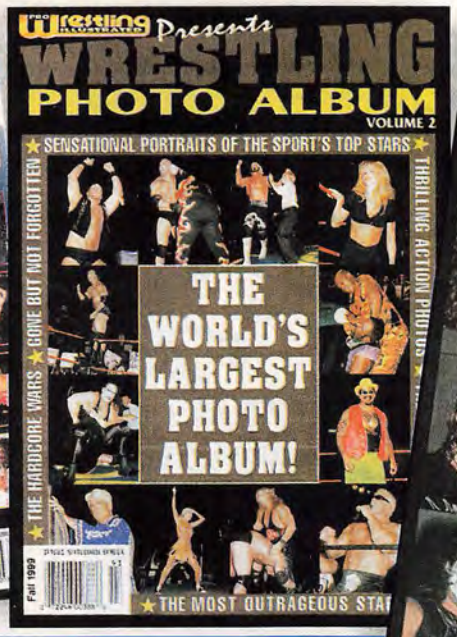
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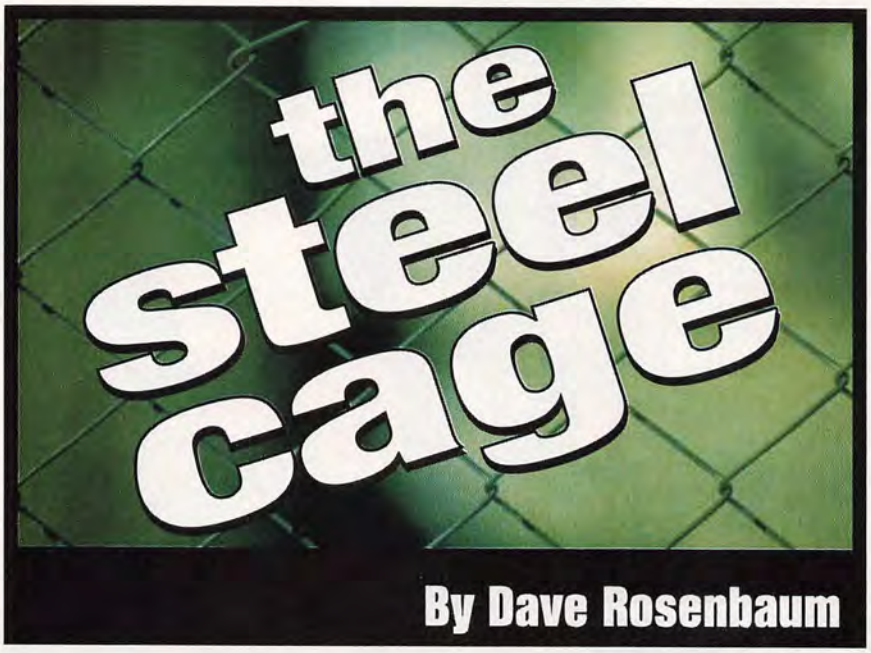
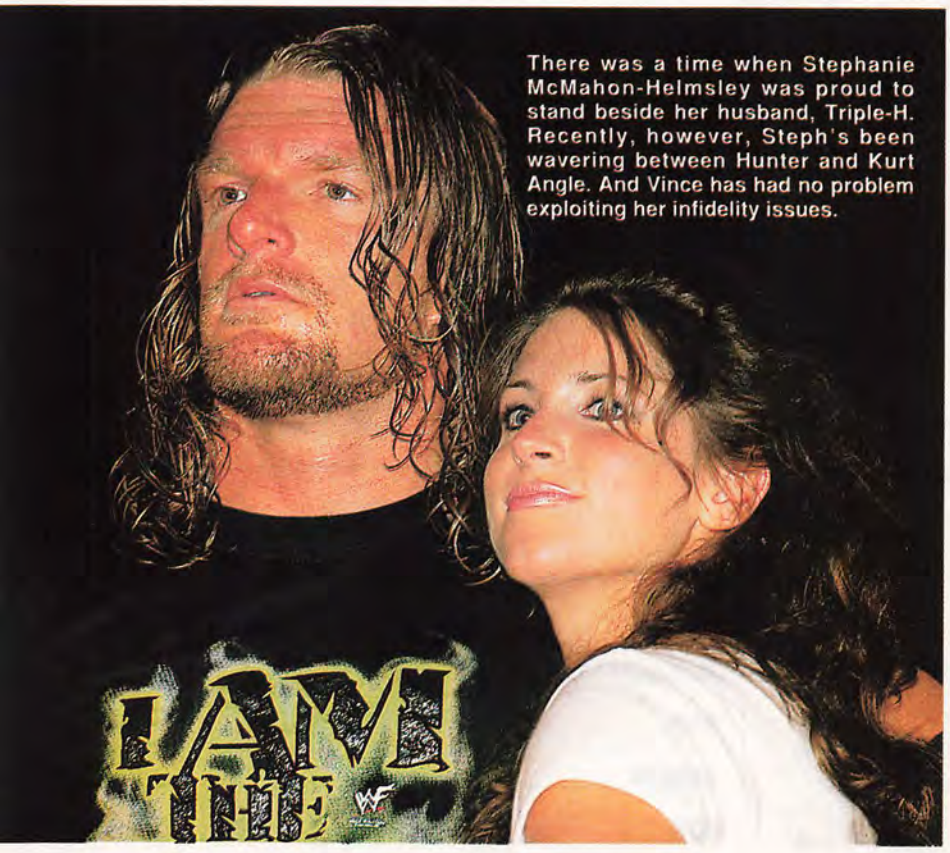


By Dave Rosenbaum

ALL IN THE FAMILY. You are Vince McMahon and you have a daughter whom you dearly love. She's in your will. When the teenage boys used to call and ask, "Is Stephanie home?" you used to lie and say, "I'm sorry, but she's not here right now." When she got old enough to date, you always made sure there was a big, strong pro wrestler present in your living room when the young man came to pick her up.

But now she is a grown woman in her 20s, old enough to make her own decisions, and she has decided to become a part of the soap opera known as the World Wrestling Federation. You're happy with her decision.



There was a time when Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley was proud to stand beside her husband, Triple-H. Recently, however, Steph's been wavering between Hunter and Kurt Angle. And Vince has had no problem exploiting her infidelity issues.

Wrestling is your life, and you're happy that your children, Shane and Stephanie, have decided to make it the main part of their lives, too. And now your daughter is such a major star that she's one of the main attractions on *Raw*, *Smackdown*, and the monthly pay-per-views.

In fact, in the midst of the soap opera, she even married a pro wrestler, Hunter Hearst Helmsley.

Life is good.

* * *

Okay, so you're not Vince McMahon, but just imagine that you are, and your daughter is Stephanie, and every Monday night, thousands of wrestling fans scream her name and call her a nasty four-letter "s" word.

There's a reason for that: Stephanie has been portrayed in the WWF as the kind of woman who isn't exactly loyal to her men, the kind of woman who gets around. When Kurt Angle planted "The Kiss" on Stephanie's lips, there's no doubt that Stephanie was enjoying what she was receiving.

Of course, that made her an adulterer in some people's eyes.

Why does Vince McMahon allow his daughter to be portrayed in such a manner? Why doesn't he at least attempt to project a more positive image of his daughter? I mean, he's the guy in control, right? He's the guy who does the hiring and the firing, right?

I guess what I'm asking is, if you made pornographic films for a living, would you want your daughter to become one of the stars?

Okay, that's a bit harsh. Pro wrestling isn't pornography. But if you were the owner of the WWF, wouldn't you be a little more careful about how the fruit of your loins is portrayed? Would it please you that Stephanie McMahon, your beloved daughter, has become the town tramp, an unfaithful wife, and a woman who uses her looks to get her way on WWF TV?

Or would you merely be happy that your daughter has successfully followed in your footsteps and perfectly learned the art of self-promotion?

There are some things about wrestling that I don't get, and this is one of those things. On TV, perception is reality, and that's particularly true in

sports entertainment, where it's nearly impossible to separate the way a person really is from the way he or she is portrayed on TV. It doesn't matter how Vince and Linda McMahon feel about their daughter. In the eyes of millions of TV viewers all over the world, their little girl is not a very nice girl.

There are several ways of looking at this:

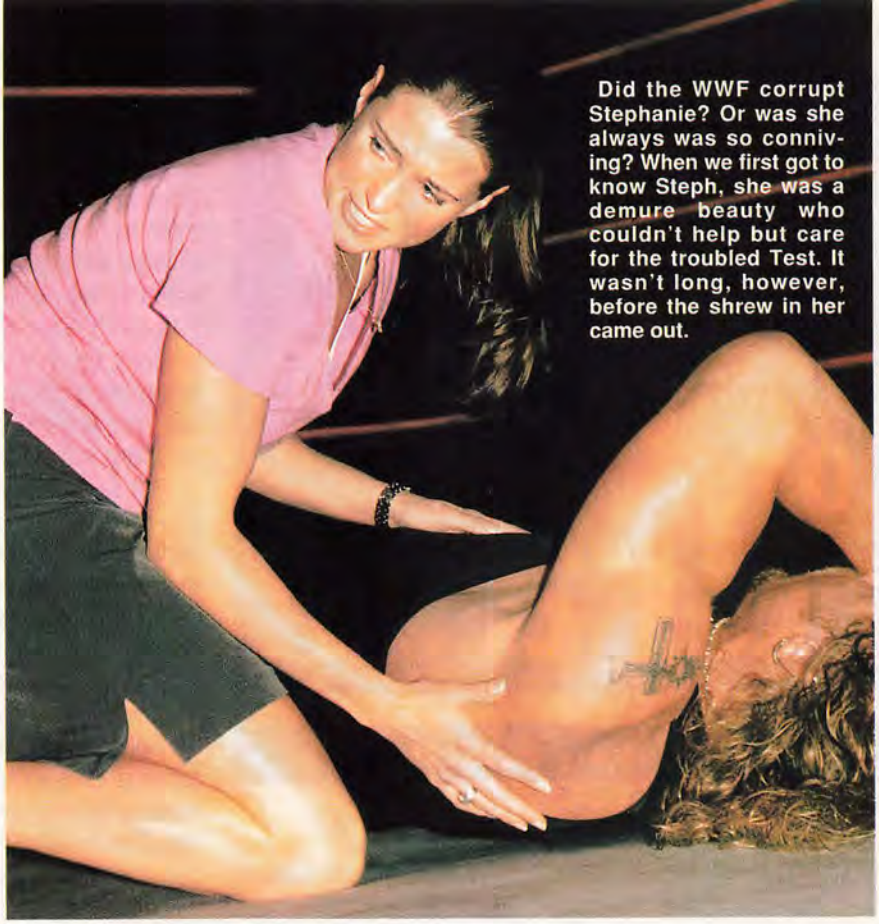
1. Vince McMahon will do anything for a buck. Stephanie means ratings, and whatever she does on TV is fine.

2. Vince never liked his son-in-law, Triple-H, in the first place.

3. The family is so dysfunctional that Stephanie's behavior seems perfectly normal to Vince.

I'm going to discount that final possibility right off the bat, because I don't think the McMahon family is dysfunctional at all. Vince was the hard-working son of a wrestling promoter also named Vince. He gladly followed his father into the sport. He's been married to only one woman, Linda. Their two children are old enough to leave the nest, but they've chosen to stay near their parents. Doesn't sound dysfunctional to me. Sounds to me like the McMahons have a great family relationship.

That leaves the first two possibilities. Let's start with the second. I don't think there's any doubt that there's no love lost between Triple-H and Vince. I'm sure if he had his way, Vince would have preferred that Stephanie marry someone else. I don't think, however, that he would have wanted Stephanie to marry Kurt Angle or any other wrestler. Therefore, I don't think Vince was guffawing when Kurt laid his lips on Stephanie. I think he was probably thinking, *Can't she find her men somewhere else?*



Did the WWF corrupt Stephanie? Or was she always was so conniving? When we first got to know Steph, she was a demure beauty who couldn't help but care for the troubled Test. It wasn't long, however, before the shrew in her came out.

Which leaves, of course, the first possibility, which we know is the answer to this burning question. Vince McMahon will do anything for a buck. Stephanie means ratings, and the ratings are higher when Stephanie's seen as a bottom-feeding, trash bag ho. Now, I don't think Vince would parade his daughter on New York City street corners for a buck. Vince isn't a pimp. But his eyes light up when he sees the bottom line.

The bottom line is that Stephanie's a grown woman, and if it's okay with her, it's okay with her father. □

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win lose or draw

By Harry Burkett

THE WWF REGISTERED more than 40,000 people to vote in the first month of its "Smackdown Your Vote" campaign. It's an amazing feat, a good deed that's given the WWF the most favorable coverage of its existence. And the favorable press couldn't come at a better time, considering the WWF's First Amendment war with the Parents Television Council. What kind of closed-minded, cold-hearted, mean-spirited malcontent would criticize a voter registration drive of this magnitude?

Me.

I'm tired of hearing all of the cliches: "Let's give the young people a voice in the democratic process!" "It doesn't matter who you vote for, just that you vote!" "We must involve as many people as possible because democracy not used is democracy lost!"

I've heard all of these wide-eyed, idealistic proclamations from a parade of WWF superstars, WWF CEO Linda McMahon, and all the activist groups that are tag teaming with the WWF in this venture. Whether it's "Smackdown Your Vote," MTV's Choose or Lose, Youth Vote 2000, or Project Vote Smart (a nonpartisan organization founded by former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford), the argument is always the same: The more voices that are heard in the political process, the better off all of us are.

I don't think so. I'm relieved when I hear about low voter turnout. That means only the diehard voters went to the polls, making for a more intelligent, informed vote. So what if only half of the country's eligible voters participated in the last election?

That suits me fine.

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking I'm some kind of communist, fascist, or, at the very least, an intellectual snob.

Well, I'm none of those things, so hear me out. If there are people who wouldn't consider voting unless The Rock or Chyna told them to, then I don't necessarily want them to have a voice equal to mine. If it takes a celebrity to urge someone to vote, it means that person is disinterested in the political process in the first place. And a disinterested voter is an uninformed voter.

Sure, the WWF's Web site helps voters gain access to information about the candidates. Project Vote Smart, in fact, provides factual information on more than 13,000 candidates running for various government offices.

But that kind of literature isn't that helpful. Basically, you receive a bunch of pamphlets that list all the promises that the candidates make. Well, promises are easy to make, and no one should cast a vote based on campaign promises alone. There are many intangibles to consider.

Can you trust a particular candidate to keep his promises? Is it even possible to deliver the promises? Pamphlets don't answer those questions. It takes several months of watching candidates during the campaign, reading newspapers and periodicals, and following the races on television. That's the only way you can judge a candidate's fitness for office.

Large numbers of youth voters bother me, anyway. Many young people simply don't have the life experience to properly assess their own goals or values, let alone make decisions that affect the rest of us.

Am I anti-youth? Am I anti-wrestling fan? Absolutely not. If a young person or a wrestling fan, or both, decides—on his or her own—to vote in an election, it tells me that person is genuinely interested in the issues and

WWF CEO Linda McMahon spearheaded the WWF's "Smackdown Your Vote" campaign with appearances at both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions. Harry Burkett wishes she had stayed at Titan Towers.

Even The Rock can be a politician when he needs to be. Sure, shaking Triple-H's hand is a world away from asking the millions and millions of Rock fans out there to register to vote, but politicking is politicking.

has probably taken the steps necessary to make an informed decision. Being inspired by Al Gore or George W. Bush is one thing, but being inspired to vote by The Rock or Chyna is a different matter.

It scares me that those people, who didn't give a thought to Gore or Bush until The Rock and Chyna appeared at the party conventions, will affect who becomes the next President. If those people get to vote, we should have a handicapping system. Those people who didn't care about the election until August should get one vote. People like me, who have spent countless hours over the past year learning about the issues, should get two votes.

Don't misunderstand me. I don't look down upon people who aren't interested in politics. It's just that politics are not a universal interest. They've become a hobby like anything else, whether it's wrestling, baseball, stamp collecting, or The Food Channel.

How would you wrestling fans feel if political junkies were able to go to c-span.org and vote for the two wrestlers who would compete at the next WrestleMania? You'd probably wind up with Kurt Angle (his Olympic hero status would make him a sure bet) vs. Gillberg (because the average C-Span viewer would probably get him confused with Bill Goldberg). For those of you wondering what C-Span is, please stay home on November 7.

The "Smackdown Your Vote" campaign is a brilliant idea—for the WWF. It accomplishes two objectives: The WWF demonstrates the power it has over a huge number of people, thereby intimidating politicians who might try to curb the lewd content of its programs. It also allows the publicly traded company to show it's a good corporate citizen—and gets the WWF great press coverage.

Yes, it's ingenuous when it comes to marketing for the WWF. But as a person who pays attention to the political process, I'm disappointed that my vote will be watered down by a bunch of blind sheep wandering through wwf.com.

I guess it's all part of Vince McMahon's plan to take over the world. First, one of his wrestling characters becomes a governor. Now he wants to influence who becomes President.

Please, Vince, stick to booking TV shows and pay-per-views. Don't book the elections for us. □

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BACK

THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER

By Dan Murphy

SO ... WHAT ABOUT Raven, anyway?

He signed with the WWF over the summer, and as we got deeper and deeper into August, a lot of us started to wonder when he'd show up on TV. In fact, the Internet was buzzing with reports that the former ECW heavyweight, ECW tag team, and WCW U.S. champion would show up at SummerSlam to make life miserable for somebody—be it Tazz, The Dudley Boyz, or just about anybody else in the federation. Of course, Raven never did show at SummerSlam. It just isn't his style. Raven was going to keep people guessing until he showed up out of nowhere and plugged some unfortunate soul with the even-flow.

Much like the X-Men's Wolverine (the comic book hero depicted on Raven's T-shirt), Raven is an unpredictable wildman who knows no limits. Dan Murphy predicts good things for Raven in his return to the WWF.

Or worse.

A lot of critics are saying Raven won't make it in today's WWF. They say the string of injuries he suffered during his two reigns as ECW champion will prevent him from competing effectively against the level of opposition he'll face in the WWF. They're also saying that his moody, melancholy disposition just won't get over in today's personality-driven WWF.

Plus, Raven's detractors say, Raven was largely inconsistent for the past two years. His final months in WCW were marked with sporadic appearances and even more moping around than usual. In ECW, weight fluctuations and squabbles with both allies and enemies made him a virtual non-factor.

So what.

Raven's whole "What about me? What about Raven?" shtick may be whiny and annoying, but the man has a point. Whether he's been called Scotty the Body, Scotty Flamingo, Johnny Polo, or Raven, Scott Levy has never been given the respect he has deserved.

Let's start with his run as Scotty Flamingo in WCW. At Beach Brawl '92, he cleanly beat Brian Pillman to win the light heavyweight title, but critics forgot about it as Pillman subsequently left the division and top contender Jushin Liger returned to his native Japan.

The following year, Flamingo changed his name to Johnny Polo and tried his hand as a manager in the WWF. There he managed to take a decidedly mid-card team, The Quebecers, to the World tag title with a nationally televised win over no less than the great Steiners. Sure, the match was contested under bogus "Province Of Quebec" rules that allowed the title to change hands on disqualifications, which is what happened once Scott Steiner started bashing everyone in sight with the hockey stick Polo tossed into the ring. But the fact of the matter is this: A rookie manager unseated a team widely considered to be the best ever. Period.

Fast-forward to Raven—the ECW years. Raven ruled ECW like no one before him. How many times did Raven beat "The Innovator Of Violence," Tommy Dreamer? Remember when Terry Gordy showed up and challenged an unprepared Raven for the ECW title? Raven took everything the legendary Freebird could dish out. In the end, he walked out of the ring (barbed wire gouged in as a gruesome halo around his scalp) with the ECW title. For God's sake, the man turned both the Sandman's ex-wife and son against him *just because he could.* And any man who could put Beulah McGillicutty, Kimona, *and* Francine under his spell deserves a round of applause.

With all the praise heaped on Terry Funk and Mick Foley for being hardcore legends, Raven barely gets men-

While The Sandman is known as "The Original Hardcore Icon," it was his wars with Raven that first turned The Sandman into a hardcore legend. Raven gets little respect for his days as ECW's most ruthless champion.

tioned. Raven held the ECW title for a total of 14 months. That's longer than the hyped-to-here reigns of Tazz and Mike Awesome *combined*. On top of that, Raven carried Stevie Richards to two ECW tag team championships, and the two successfully defended the title against legendary ECW teams like Public Enemy and The Pit Bulls. Oh yeah, they beat the Steiners, too.

Raven's ECW title reigns set the tone for Triple-H's run in the WWF. Raven was the most dominant rule-breaking world champion (though PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED had not yet given ECW world title recognition) since Big Van Vader. But unlike Vader, Raven defended his title not with raw power, but through determination and ruthlessness. Triple-H won respect by facing all contenders and walking away with the title. So did Raven. It's a shame how many people have forgotten.

And don't forget WCW's U.S. title. Raven may have only held the belt for one day, but that's because he ran into Bill Goldberg, who was then steamrolling everyone from Sting to Hulk Hogan during his undefeated streak. There was no shame in losing to Goldberg in 1998—heck, just about everyone in WCW did at some point.

True, Raven's last stint in ECW was unremarkable, though he and Tommy Dreamer and he and Mike Awesome did hold the tag title. But Raven wasn't focused. There were no mountains left for him to climb in ECW, no new worlds to conquer. In the WWF, Raven is still an unproven commodity. He doesn't have the marketability of The Rock, and you can bet your sweet patootie WWFE stockholders aren't exactly salivating over the prospect of Raven in the main event of WrestleMania. But it's very possible that could happen.

When Raven is focused, he's one of the most dangerous and most devious men in the sport. Ask Sandman. Ask "Diamond" Dallas Page. Ask Tommy Dreamer. Raven is hungry again. And that's bad news for a lot of WWF wrestlers who are about to make the mistake of failing to give Raven the respect he deserves. □

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THE Wrestling ANALYST

SCOTTY TOO HOTTY

Years Pro: 11
Size: 6', 203
"*PWI* 500" Listings: 2000—33
1999—161
1998—143
1997—161
Titles: WWF World tag team
WWF light heavyweight New England
Wrestling Association heavyweight (5 times)
New England Wrestling tag team (2 times)
***PWI* Awards:** None

THE NUMBERS

Offense (9.0): Scotty's greatest skill is his ability to dodge and weave around opponents, then hit them with high-impact offensive moves when they aren't looking or aren't ready. His long-time finisher, the flying DDT, often comes out before his foes know what hit them.

Defense (8.5): His sense of timing enables him to duck most clotheslines, slide between his foe's legs, and turn a backdrop into a sunset flip with regularity. His quickness compensates for his lack of defensive mat skills when he's in tag team matches, but that might not be the case in singles competition, in which he's more likely to tire quickly.

Experience (10.0): Is that surprising? Scotty competed in the WWF on a regular basis for eight years before getting his big break. Phil Apollo, an early rival and WWF veteran, toughened up Scotty on the Northeast independent circuit.

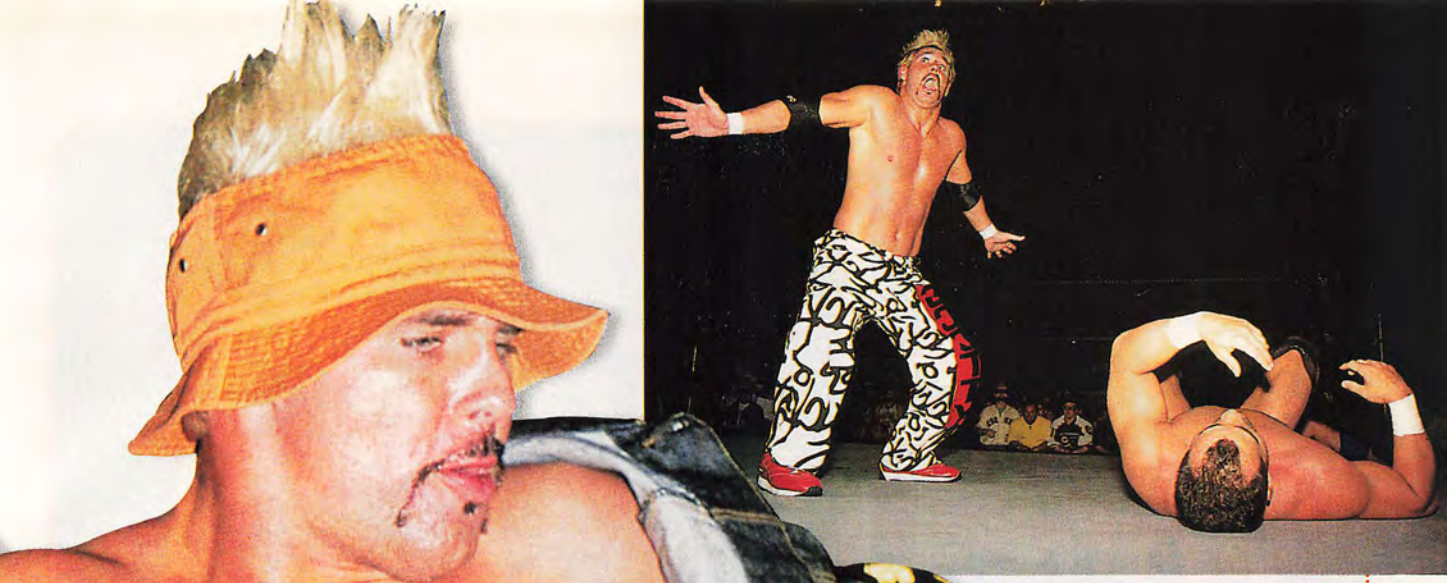
Conditioning (8.5): He weighs only 203 pounds, but he's powerfully built. He resisted the temptation to bulk up during his career, despite the slew of bodybuilders who were prominent in the sport at the time of his debut. His decision to emphasize cardiovascular fitness has paid off.

Science (9.0): Scott Taylor and a few of his childhood friends taught themselves how to wrestle in his mother's garage. Needless to say, neither Bob Backlund nor Lou Thesz found the time to stop by and help Taylor hone his techniques. He has been undergoing on-the-job training since 1989.

Stamina (10.0): The average person should try wrestling an uptempo match—complete with huracanranas and flying headscissors—then do the worm and some breakdancing. Aside from his tremendous stamina, Scotty has few nagging injuries, which makes him much more durable than Grandmaster Sexay.

Power (7.0): Scotty rarely wins tests of strength. Fortunately, he isn't foolish enough to engage in them often. He combines his strength with leverage in some of his maneuvers, including the belly-to-belly suplex and powerslam.

Speed (9.5): Who's faster than Scotty Too Hotty? Probably only two stars in the WWF: Taka Michinoku and Essa Rios. He might tie with Sho Funaki. Scotty's outstanding speed was a determining factor when he upset Dean Malenko for the light heavyweight title early this year.



① Of all the moves in his repertoire, the worm has brought Scotty Too Hotty the most success and attention. Still, Scotty has a deep and impressive arsenal of maneuvers from which he can draw.

Ability To Absorb Punishment (8.5): This young man is tough. He's been pounded by The Dudley Boyz, stomped by The Acolytes, and flattened by Edge and Christian. He hasn't said "I quit" since he and Grandmaster became fan favorites. He doesn't want to compromise his hard-fought success.

Quality Of Opposition (9.5): Too Cool became the World tag team champions of the most competitive federation in the world—the WWF—in late-May. Their toughest opponents have been The Hardy Boyz, who are about as fast as Scotty and Grandmaster. Too Cool's experience will be to their advantage.

② Essa Rios is one light heavyweight who could have many great matches with Scotty Too Hotty. Scotty will have to consistently beat high-flyers such as Rios to keep his name high on the marquee.

③ Scotty has fared pretty well against veteran Dean Malenko. In fact, the two men have traded the WWF light heavyweight title. If or when Too Cool breaks up, Scotty has a promising career as a singles wrestler.

④ Even though he weighs just 203 pounds, Taylor is stronger than many of his light heavyweight counterparts, including Malenko. Since Dean is just as agile as Scotty, his strength advantage comes in handy.

⑤ Scott Taylor wrestled amid very little fanfare for nearly a decade, but that changed when he became Scotty Too Hotty. Now wrestling fans everywhere know who he is.

⑥ Although Scotty and Grandmaster Sexay remain extremely popular in the WWF, their momentum seems to have stalled a bit of late. Both men could benefit from an amicable split.

THE ANALYSIS

Repertoire: Scotty spent so much time learning the basics—armdrags, hiptosses, bodypresses, and dropkicks—that he thought he was on the fast track when he learned huracanranas, moonsaults, and flying DDTs. He didn't realize two specific moves would make him a sensation: the worm and the karate chop, which he almost always executes in succession. Go figure.

Strengths: He learned the sport in his garage instead of a training school. He struggled on the independent circuit. He competed as prelim wrestler in the WWF for more than five years and people still couldn't remember his name. But Scott Taylor never quit and never will stop trying to improve. He credits Al Snow, Aldo Montoya (Justin Credible), and Owen Hart with teaching him the most during his early bouts.

Weaknesses: Scotty is a classic case of the gimmick overshadowing the wrestler. A popular gimmick can boost an otherwise lackluster career, but there's a relatively low ceiling for success. Scotty could wind up like Val Venis and The Godfather—struggling to escape the mid-card. What will happen when Too Cool's routine grows stale?

Defining Career Moment: Grandmaster Sexay's ankle injury, inflicted by The Big Show in April, was a blessing for Scotty. That allowed Scotty to challenge for the WWF light heavyweight title, a championship he hadn't pursued in almost two years. He defeated Dean Malenko for the belt, but lost it back to Malenko a few weeks later. His reign, although short, demonstrated his true singles potential.

Future: As WWF World tag team champions, Scotty and Grandmaster received challenges from Edge and Christian, The Dudley Boyz, Road Dogg and X-Pac, The Hardy Boyz, T & A, *and* The Acolytes. They've cooled off a bit since losing the belts, however. Another series of matches with light heavyweight champion Dean Malenko, as well as bouts against Taka Michinoku and Essa Rios, would be spectacular. It's time for Scotty to try wrestling singles full-time.

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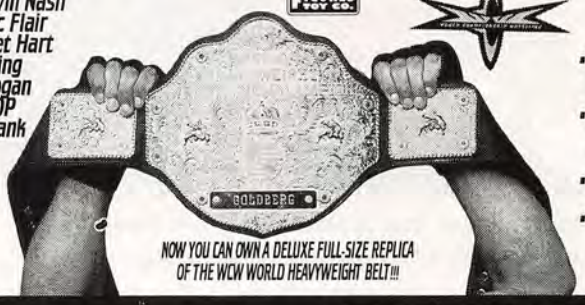

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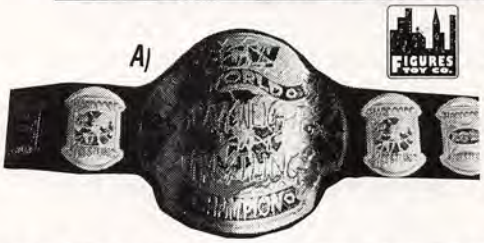

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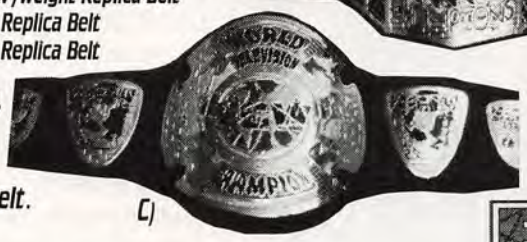

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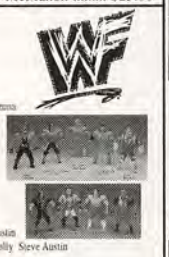

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Venis • Undertaker • Edge • Stone Cold • Dr. Death

Series 8- Team Corporate
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Series 9
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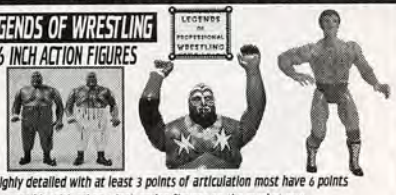

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12 Questions

You're at the airport. You see your favorite wrestler relaxing in one of the terminals. You rush up to him or her as questions fill your excited mind. There are certain things you just *have* to know about this person. Well, these are the 12 questions you'd *never* think of asking

WITH CHRIS JERICHO

What movie made you cry?

I cried when Spock died in *Star Trek II: The Wrath Of Khan*. I was really in love with all the Star Trek characters, and when Spock died, I basically thought it was the end of movies and science fiction. Then I had a friend who went and told everybody at school that I cried, and it made me a huge laughingstock. I wanted to kill him.

What is Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley's best quality?

Her rat's nest of a hairstyle. It gets more and more ridiculous every week and provides me with hours of comedy.

What's the dumbest thing you've ever done?

I was 16 and working at Zeller's, which was kind of like Target at the time. I was working on something in the trash compactor room when I broke a light bulb with a broom stick. So I grabbed a ladder and went up to replace the bulb, but the metal part of the bulb that I broke was still in the housing. So I grabbed a pair of pliers and tried to pull the metal out of there. Well, as soon as I stuck the pliers up there, I sent about 50,000 volts of electricity through my body, which threw me into the compactor. I think I was out for about three or four minutes, which was really dangerous, because if somebody had gone and tried to use the compactor while I was out, I wouldn't have been able to stop them. So I guess the moral of the story is to not stick anything metal into a light socket.

Current relationship aside, who would like to find laying next to you in the morning?

Jennifer Aniston from *Friends* or any of the girls that have appeared on the cover of *Maxim.*

Where do you think you'd be if you had never left WCW?

Probably wrestling Crowbar in the main event of *World Wide.*

What exactly is a filthy, bottom-feeding, trash bag ho?

Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley.

Do you ever find yourself thinking, *I really miss Ralphus?*

Not really, because every time I see him on TV with his lack of teeth and ass hanging out, I don't really know why I let him in on the act anyway.

You have a choice between Luciano Pavarotti, Kathie Lee Gifford, and Ross Perot to live on a deserted island with for the rest of your life. Which one would you pick and why?

Well, I'd pick Kathie Lee, because she's a girl, and when it got cold at night, I could cuddle up with her. And in the '70s, she was pretty hot. I'd make Luciano Pavarotti my second pick because if you ever got really hungry, you could just cook him up and eat him for months.

Who's the best person in the WWF to rib?

Kurt Angle. He's in a main-event position, but he's only been around a year, so he's still naive. It's just a lot of fun to prod him and poke him, because he's still not sure what you're doing and how you're making fun of him.

Chris Jericho Boulevard would be in what city?

Chris Jericho Boulevard could be in any number of cities. I've lived in Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver, Tampa, Knoxville, and on Long Island, so before a match in any of those places, I can go out there and say I used to live there and get a cheap pop.

What's your favorite disguise for going out in public?

A baseball hat and glasses, and I put my hair in a ponytail. It works because I look like the biggest nerd. Nobody would believe I'm Chris Jericho because I look completely different when I'm trying not to be noticed.

You have a hammer, a midget, and a roulette wheel. What are your plans for the evening?

A rock 'n' roll party! □

For The Guys ...

TRISH STRATUS

BEST FEATURE ...
Her eyes

WHAT GUY WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEE HER DRESSED UP AS ...
Xena the Warrior Princess

FACE IT, MEN CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF HER ...
Come on now, guys, try to convince us you *don't* stare at her chest every chance you get!

BUT WATCH OUT FOR THAT ...
Leather strap we've seen her wield. *Ouch!*

SHE'D BE GREAT IN THIS TV OR MOVIE PART ...
Nadia, the foreign exchange student played by Shannon Elizabeth in *American Pie*

IF SHE WEREN'T INVOLVED IN WRESTLING, WE COULD SEE HER SUCCEEDING AS ...
A Labatt's beer model. Hey, she is Canadian, and that was Pamela Anderson's first big break

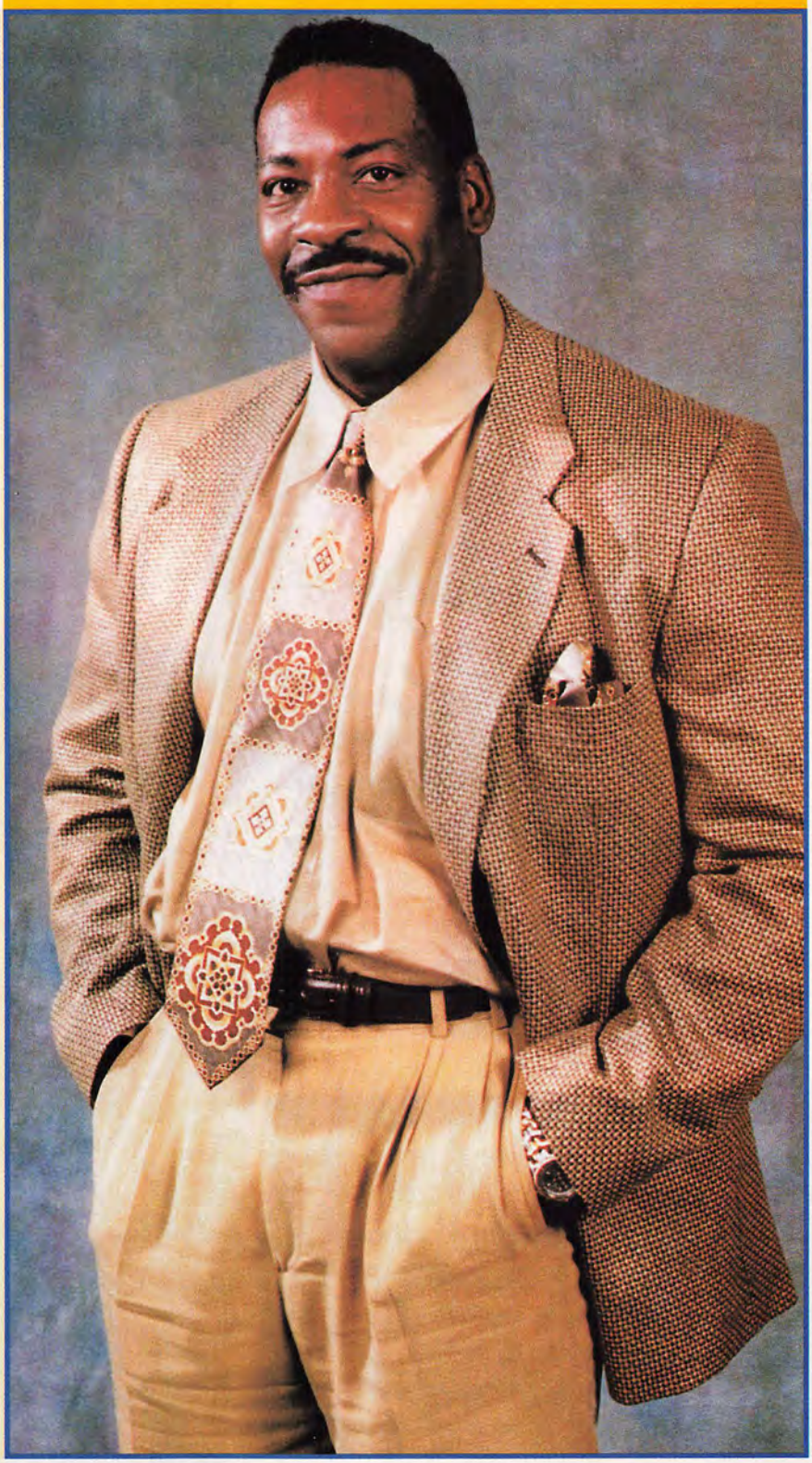
ONE THING SHE COULD STAND TO IMPROVE UPON IS ...
Her wardrobe. At least parts of it. The long coats are nice, but they cover her up way too much!

LITTLE-KNOWN FACT ...
Trish, a fitness nut, eats six small meals per day and considers rice cakes her favorite "treat"

OVERHEARD AT RINGSIDE ...
"How did she manage to squeeze herself into that leather miniskirt?"

For The Ladies ...

BOOKER T



BEST FEATURE ...
His smile

WHAT WOMAN WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEE HIM DRESSED IN ...
One of those Italian suits he wears to the arenas

FACE IT, LADIES CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF HIS ...
Tights. He likes them to fit nice and snug

BUT WATCH OUT FOR THAT ...
Mr. Nice Guy attitude. He's one of the most pleasant wrestlers you'll ever come across—provided you're not one of his enemies

HE'D BE GREAT IN THIS TV OR MOVIE PART ...
John Shaft in *Shaft*

IF HE WEREN'T INVOLVED IN WRESTLING, WE COULD SEE HIM SUCCEEDING AS ...
A model. When he's all dressed up, he looks like he belongs on the cover of *GQ*

ONE THING HE COULD STAND TO IMPROVE UPON IS ...
His willingness to create his own image. We have a feeling the WCW creative team is more at fault than Booker here, but let's *not* try to make him look like The Rock!

LITTLE-KNOWN FACT ...
Booker was a drum major when he was in high school

OVERHEARD AT RINGSIDE ...
"Why the hell does Madden go crazy whenever Booker does that 'spin-nerooni' thing?"

Through the Years

It's amazing how drastically certain superstars change their looks over the years. A change in hair color or hairstyle here, a new ring outfit there, a few more tattoos here *and* there, or the mother of all changes ... the total gimmick overhaul. Every month, *PWI* will show you just how much one of your favorites has transformed himself. Yeah, it really is the same guy in all these photos!

THE UNDERTAKER FILES

1-Also known as "Mean" Mark Callous (1990)
2-The casual look (1992)
3-So dark and so menacing (1993)
4-When his hair was still red (1994)
5-Adding purple to the package (1995)
6-A ghoulish champion (1997)
7-That eerie eye trick (1998)
8-Biker dude with an attitude (2000)

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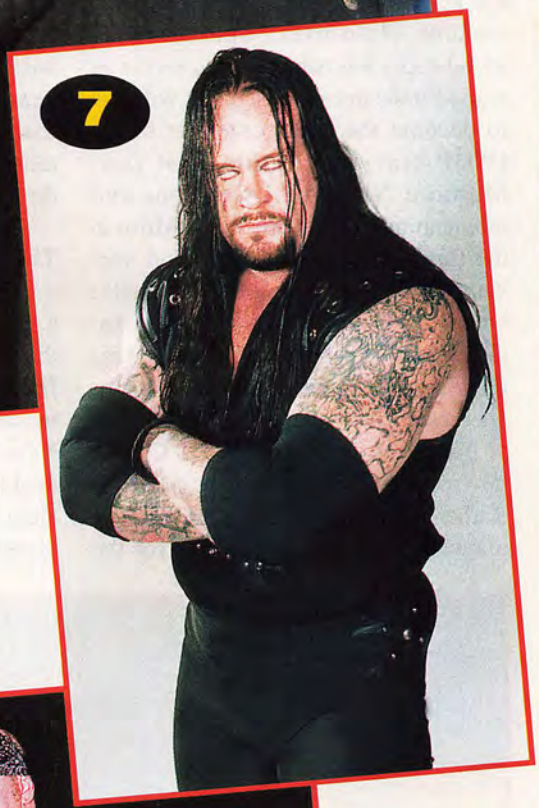
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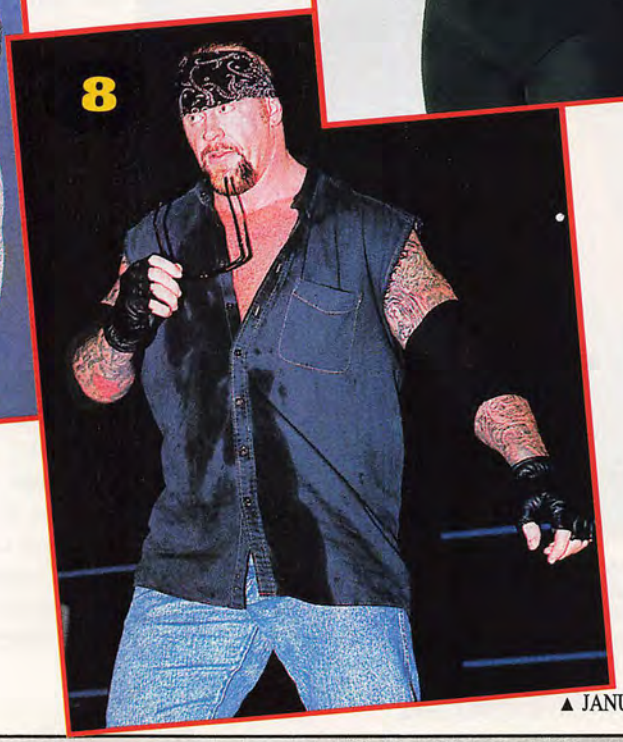
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the JAPAN REPORT

By Mike Spillane

NO OTHER EVENT changes the complexion of the heavyweight division in New Japan Pro Wrestling like the G1 Climax tournament. Held every summer, this round-robin tournament often serves as a good indicator of which star will rise to become the next contender to the IWGP heavyweight title. Last year, **Manabu Nakanishi** won fans and momentum by defeating **Keiji Muto** in the finals of the tournament, and later went on to enjoy success as a singles wrestler. While Nakanishi didn't capture the IWGP heavyweight title, his G1 victory was considered by all to be his breakthrough performance.

This year, however, the G1 Climax provided fans with something different. Rather than establishing a new major player in the contender ranks for the title, the G1 Climax served only to reinforce the dominance of New Japan's top dog. **Kensuke Sasaki**, the reigning IWGP heavyweight champion, took home the trophy and the accolades by winning the tournament this year. And no one has managed to shake Sasaki's stranglehold on the title, much less diminish his dominance in the division.

Sasaki, who was once known as **The Power Warrior**, still transforms into his alter-ego from time to time. As a member of **The Road Warriors** (in the absence of **Animal**), he and partner **Hawk** enjoyed great popularity as a tandem. However, Sasaki isn't the only New Japan superstar with a strange double identity. The split personality of Keiji Muto resulted in the birth of **The Great Muta**, an international sensation currently active in WCW. Muto and Sasaki have clashed before and even battled over the IWGP heavyweight title in their alternate, face-painted identities.

With Keiji Muto currently performing in WCW as his alter-ego, The Great Muta, IWGP heavyweight champion Kensuke Sasaki has had an easy go of it of late. Would Sasaki have won the G1 tournament if Muto had competed in it?

New Japan fans are beginning to wonder if Sasaki's dominance is in some way the result of Muto's absence from the heavyweight division. With Muto on indefinite leave from New Japan, and given **Masa Chono's** constant injuries and erratic physical condition, Sasaki remains without a serious challenger. Even the once formidable **Shinya Hashimoto** is only a shadow of his former self. If the G1 Climax had one story to tell this year, it was that there is no one poised to end the reign of Sasaki.

Muto isn't the only man missing in action with New Japan. **Shinjiro Otani** is also gone. Headed for Calgary, Otani, one of the world's greatest junior heavyweights, is being sent to Stampede Wrestling to get some much-needed international experience. Only two members of the junior heavyweight division—Otani and current IWGP junior champ **Tatsuhito Takaiwa**—lack international seasoning. **Jushin Liger** has wrestled around the world, and **El Samurai** has experience in Mexico. **Koji Kanemoto** competed in Mexico during his days as the third **Tiger Mask**. **Kendo Ka Shin** honed his craft in Europe with the CWA before returning to New Japan. With Takaiwa holding the title, promoters felt the time to send him abroad wasn't yet at hand and instead gave Otani the nod. It should be interesting to see if he is rewarded with title shots upon his return.

All-Japan Pro Wrestling is still kicking, and to help fill the gap left by the exodus of **Mitsuharu Misawa**, **Kenta Kobashi**, and 30 other stars, All-Japan has brought in a variety of well-known wrestlers. **Sabu**, who last competed opposite **Rob Van Dam** in All-Japan, is now touring with the company. Luchadores **Super Calo**, **Damien**, **Super Parka**, and **Halloween** are all on the current tour as well. In the main events, **Toshiaki Kawada** has been battling **Johnny Ace** in singles and tag team combinations. Ace has been splitting his time, commuting back and forth between Asia and the United States, where he is serving as an adviser to WCW. And **Genichiro Tenryu's** appearances with All-Japan have certainly helped keep the promotion afloat in this difficult time.

Tenryu's strong ties to New Japan have also helped in another way, as talks to secure the services of **Masa Chono** for an upcoming All-Japan card are progressing nicely.

Soo da, sayonara! □

the MEXICO REPORT

By Mike Spillane

THE IWRG *TRIOS* belts are staying firmly around the waists of **Los Villanos III, IV,** and **V**. Most recently, the brothers turned back the challenge of **Silver King** (back from his stint in WCW), **Dr. Wagner Jr.**, and **Satanico**, who was a last minute replacement for **El Dandy**. Despite the victory, Villano III continues to lose steam since being unmasked by **Atlantis** on pay-per-view in March.

Veteran Luchadore **Dos Caras** has a lot to be happy about these days. Besides just being a 40-year veteran who remains in top form, his son was scheduled to compete in this summer's Olympics. With the success of other Olympians in pro wrestling (see **Kurt Angle**), can it be long before Caras' son crosses over into Lucha Libre?

An influx of long-absent talent has helped revitalize the Lucha scene. **Super Crazy**, **Psicosis**, and **La Parka** have all been appearing on cards in Mexico, where they had been sorely missed by their legions of fans. Super Crazy is already back in the spotlight in AAA, where he has quickly reclaimed his spot as one of the promotion's most popular athletes. Another match with **Histeria** doesn't look to be far off, either, as the two wrestles share a long-time rivalry.

The simmering animosity between the **Vipers** and **Los Vatos Locos** only continues to escalate. The two teams continue to battle on practically every AAA television taping and arena event.

Lucha Libre is also popular in Japan, where groups like CMLL have established followings and even have television coverage. Michinoku Pro, a Japanese independent that often works with **Ultimo Dragon's** Toryumon group, has been host to several top Luchadores in its eight-year history. Men like Dos Caras, **Mil Mascaras**, and **El Hijo del Santo** have all toured with Michinoku through the years. Currently, **Fuerza Guerrera** and **Ricky Marvin** are on loan to Michinoku, where fans have been flocking to see the popular Luchadores. Marvin, whom many compare to **Rey Misterio Jr.** and **Taka Michinoku**, has been received warmly by the Japanese fans.

Hector Garza lost the IWC heavyweight title to **Cibernetico** in a title vs. title match hosted by AAA. The popular *technico* rebounded in the best-of-three-falls contest, overcoming constant interference on the part of the *rudos*. Ultimately, some quick thinking on the part of the *rudos* resulted in Garza's disqualification, as the official spotted Garza with a steel chair. Unlike American title matches, many titles can change hands on disqualifications in Mexico, and that was the outcome here. Cibernetico now holds the IWC heavyweight title in addition to his *Campeon de Campeones* title.

Another difference in Lucha rules is a unique referee call known as "excess of punishment." A wrestler can win a fall simply by beating his opponent silly, regardless of pinfall, submission, or countout. This odd call was almost made during the same show that saw Garza lose his championship. On the undercard, the *technico* team of **Perro Aguayo Jr.**, **La Parka Jr.**, **El Alebrije**, and **Sangre Chicana** barely defeated the team of **Pirata Morgan**, **El Texano**, **El Cobarde**, and **Espectro Jr.** in best-of-three-falls action. The *rudos*, led by Pirata Morgan, crushed the *technicos* in the opening minutes, punishing Sangre Chicana so badly that many fans in the audience were calling for the "excess of punishment" decision to be rendered.

The *rudos* were well on their way to victory, but were ultimately disqualified after numerous warnings. In the aftermath, Morgan and Chicana agreed to a hair vs. hair match on an upcoming card. □

Dr. Wagner Jr., partnering with Silver King and Satanico, may not have defeated Los Villanos for the IWRG trios title, but you can be sure that his quest to win the title hasn't ended.

arena reports

We encourage promoters and fans to send results to: "Arena Reports," c/o Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. Fax results to (215) 540-0146. E-mail results to PWIQueen@aol.com.

SPOTLIGHT CARD OF THE MONTH

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL—ECW at the War Memorial: **Chris Kruger** beat **Oz** ... **Redd Dogg** defeated **Michael Shane** ... **E.Z. Money** & **Julio Dinero** beat **Nova** & **Chris Chetti** and **Joey Matthews** & **Christian York** in a three-way match ... **Jerry Lynn** defeated **Chris Hamrick** ... **Scotty Anton** beat **Bilvis Wesley** ... **Little Guido Maritato**, **Tony Mamaluke**, & **Sal E. Graziano** defeated **Mikey Whipwreck**, **Yoshihiro Tajiri**, & **Psicosis** ... **C.W. Anderson** beat **Tommy Dreamer** ... World champion **Justin Credible** defeated **Kid Kash** ... **Rob Van Dam** beat TV champion **Rhino** by disqualification.
(08-11-00)

—Duane Long

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

MOBILE—WWF at the Civic Center: Light heavyweight champion **Dean Malenko** defeated **Crash** ... **Al Snow** pinned **Midian** ... **Too Cool** won a three-way dance, beating **D-Lo Brown** & **Chaz** and World tag team champions **Christian** & **Edge** by disqualification ... World champion **The Rock** beat **Kurt Angle** ... **Just Joe** beat **"Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi** ... **The Goodfather** & **Bull Buchanan** defeated **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** ... **Road Dogg** & **X-Pac** defeated **The Hardy Boyz** ... Intercontinental champion **Val Venis** beat **Rikishi** by disqualification.
(08-20-00)

—Dominick Valenti

CALIFORNIA

ANTIOCH—All Pro Wrestling at the Fairgrounds: **Tony Jones** & **Hardcore Comini** beat **The Snott Brothers** ... **Ma'och** beat **Mark Smith** ... **Vinny Massaro** defeated **Myaki Frantz** by disqualification ... **Donovan Morgan** & **Kid Chrome** beat **The Ballard Brothers** ... **Michael Modest** defeated **Chad Collyer** ... Tag team champions **Robert Thompson** & **Boyce LeGrande** beat **Jardi Frantz** & **Vic Grimes** ... **The Honky Tonk Man** beat universal champion **Frank Murdoch** to win the title.
(08-26-00)

—Keith Beachman

LOS ANGELES—Ultimate Pro Wrestling at the Galaxy Theater: **The Ballard Brothers** defeated **Frankie Kazarain** & **Tech 9** ... **J.D. Dempsey** defeated **Tony Jones** ... Internet champion **Damien Steele** beat **Billy Kim** ... The three-way match between **Christopher Daniels**, **Tom Howard**, and **Mike Bell** was ruled a no-contest ... **Mikey Henderson** beat **Stretch** for the light heavyweight title ... **Andy the Enterpriser** defeated **The Navajo Warrior** ... **Samoan Joe** beat **K.G. Sakuda** ... **Billy D** defeated **Mike Knox** ... **Staz** beat **Smelly** for the heavyweight title ... **Prototype** defeated **Crash** ... **Paul Riggs** won a battle royal.
(08-23-00)

—Dominick Valenti

FLORIDA

ST. PETERSBURG—IPW Hardcore Wrestling at VFW Post #6827: **Frankie Capone** defeated **Mr. Peskin** and **Le Artiste** in a three-way match ... **Drunk and Disorderly** beat **Mike** & **Todd Shane** ... **Scoot Andrews** defeated **Jet Jaguar** ... **Dagon Briggs** beat **Havoc** ... Heavyweight champion **Mike Sullivan** and **Buck Quartermain** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Devin**, **Sand Storm**, **Pat McGroin**, & **Quickfast** defeated **D-Day** & **Simeon Steele** in a handicap match ... **Bud Green** and **Bill Pain** fought to a double-countout ... **O.G. Scarface** & **Climax** beat **Ron Niemi** & **Gabrielle** ... **Notorious D.O.G.**

and **Chaos** fought to a no-contest ... **The York Brothers** & **Haystacks Calhoun Jr.** beat **The Snack Pack** in a six-man match.
(08-19-00)

—Christopher L. Wilkins

TAMPA—NWA Florida at the Fort Homer Hesterly Armory: ***In a tournament for the vacant NWA Florida heavyweight title, quarterfinals:*** **Venom** beat **Lex Lovett** ... **Chris Nelson** defeated **Chris Rivera** ... **Jumbo Barrera** beat **Cyborg** ... **Adam Windsor** defeated **Vito DeNucci** ... ***Semifinals:*** Nelson beat Venom ... Windsor defeated Barrera ... ***Finals:*** Windsor beat Nelson to win the NWA Florida heavyweight title ... ***Non-tournament matches:*** **Rasta Man** defeated **Barry Horowitz** by disqualification ... **Pepe Prado** beat NWA Florida junior heavyweight champion **Buck Quartermain** to win the title ... **Steve Keirn** & **B. Brian Blair** fought **The Bushwhackers** to a no-contest ... **Rick Michaels** & **David Young** beat NWA tag team champions **Curtis Thompson** & **Drake Dawson** to win the title.
(08-18-00)

—Mitchell S. Conell

GEORGIA

DALLAS—All-South Too Extreme Championship Wrestling at Powerhouse Fitness: **Rob Adonis** beat **Johnnie Walker** ... **Lee Thomas** defeated **Alexander the Great** ... **The Stalker** beat **American Gladiator** ... **Pretty Boy Floyd** defeated **Al Horne** ... **Alexander the Great** & **American Gladiator** beat **The Stalker** & **Lee Thomas**.
(08-19-00)

—Robert Adlee

INDIANA

MARION—Extreme Wrestling Federation at the EWF Arena: **Randy Mullins** & **Slim Trimmins** beat **Law** & **Order** ... **Hurricane** beat **Ruin** & **Nigel Slacker** in a handicap match ... **Dusty Bottoms** beat **Dexter P. Wyler** ... **Phoenix** and **Hypnosis** fought to a double-countout ... **Grizzly** beat **Gutter** ... **Jack Hammer** beat **Lucky Dane** ... **Eden** beat **King** ... **Bob** beat **Ronnie Vegas**.
(09-02-00)

—Justin Crader

BRAZIL—Wild Championship Wrestling Outlaws at the Clay County Fairgrounds: Heavyweight champ **Indiana Kidd Jr.** beat **Eddie Wilson** ... **E.Z. Cruz** defeated **Jazz Hoyt** ... **Johnnie Walker** pinned **Corporal Burns** ... **Guy Lombardo** defeated **Itch Coma Weider** by disqualification ... **Uncle Ernie** pinned **The Executioner** ... Tag team champs **Don Basher** & **E.Z. Cruz** defeated **The Screaming Eagles** ... **Itch Coma Weider** and **Johnnie Walker** battled to a no-contest ... Heavyweight champion **Indiana Kidd Jr.** defeated **Don Basher**.
(08-18-00)

—Randy Klemme

IOWA

SIOUX CITY—WCW at the Sioux City Auditorium: **The Jung Dragons** beat **Three Count** ... **Crowbar** defeated **David Flair** ... **Vampiro** & **The Great Muta** defeated **The Demon** & **Lex Luger** ... Hardcore champion **Norman Smiley** beat **Big Vito** ... World tag team champs **Juventud Guerrera** & **Rey Misterio Jr.** beat **Kronic** and **Mark Jindrak** & **Sean O'Haire** in a three-way match ... U.S. champion **Lance Storm** defeated **Mike Awesome** ... **Scott Steiner** and **Bill Goldberg** fought to a no-contest ... World champion **Booker T** beat **Jeff Jarrett**.
(08-19-00)

—John Collins

KENTUCKY

CENTRAL CITY KY—Bad 2 The Bone Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: Heavyweight champion **Todd Morton** defeated **The Hard-Knock Kid** ... **Josh Garrett** beat **The Regulator** in a hardcore match ... **Bill Lewis** defeated **Bio Hazard** ... **Billy Black** beat heavyweight champion **Todd Morton** by disqualification ... **The Regulator** & **Bio Hazard** defeated **Bill Lewis** & **Josh Garrett**.
(08-26-00)

—Bart McQueary

LOUISIANA

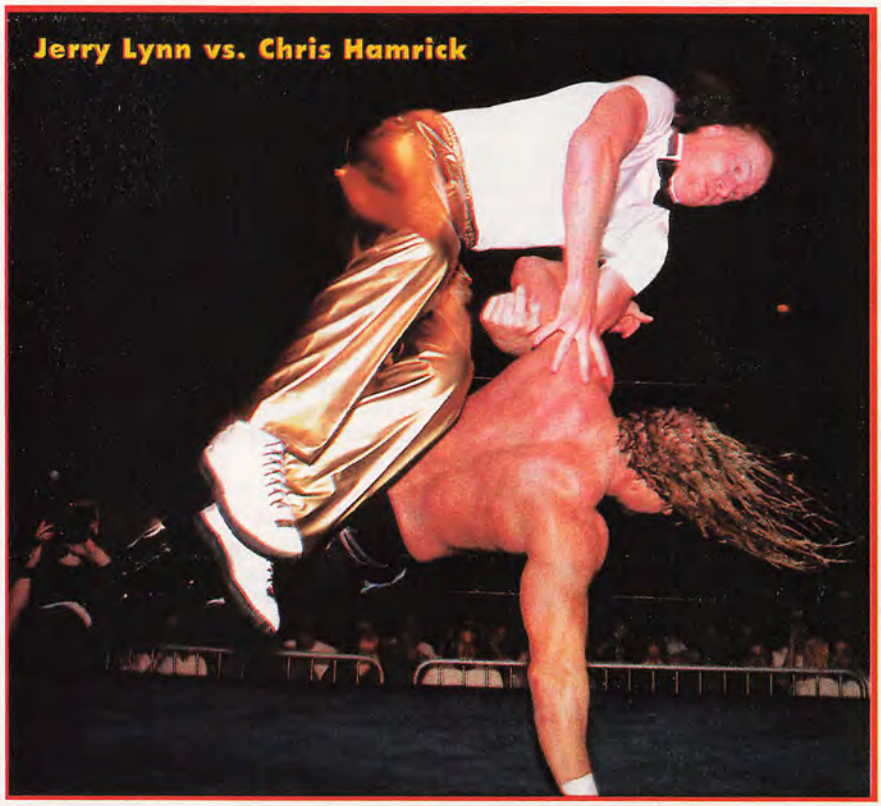
BATON ROUGE—WWF at the Civic Center: **Gangrel** beat **Essa Rios** ... **Kaientai** defeated **The Dupp Brothers** ... **Jacquelyn** pinned **Ivory** ... Hardcore champion **Steve Blackman** beat **Big Bossman** ... **The Undertaker** pinned **Triple-H** ... **Jerry Lawler** defeated **Tazz** ... European champion **Perry Saturn** beat **Eddie Guerrero** ... **Chris Benoit** defeated **Chris Jericho** ... **The Dudley Boyz** beat **Test** & **Albert** in a tables match.
(08-20-00)

—Raymond Leary

MARYLAND

FORT MEADE—Maryland Championship Wrestling at the Fest Tent: **Qeenan Creed** beat **Executioner 57** ... Cruiserweight champ **Chad Bowman** defeated **Marcus Jordan** ... **Ricky Blues** beat **The Bruiser** ... **Ronnie Zukko** & **Candie** defeated **Chip Bowman** & **Tara** in a mixed tag match ... Tag team champs **Dino Devine** & **Christopher Carmichael** beat **2-Dope** & **Sydeswype** ... **Orlando Jordan** defeated **Corporal Punishment** ... Heavyweight champion **Jimmy Cicero** beat **Adam Flash** ... **King Kong Bundy** defeated **The Honky Tonk Man**.
(08-25-00)

—Jeff Amdur


Jerry Lynn vs. Chris Hamrick

NEW JERSEY

SOUTH PLAINFIELD—Independent Wrestling Federation at Grand Slam USA: **Steve Corino** & **Twiggy Ramirez** defeated **Kevin Knight** & **Biggie Biggs** ... **Dr. Hurtz** & **Mark Vero** won a six-team Royal Rumble-style battle royal to capture the tag team title ... **B.J. Thomas** beat **Scott Rooter** ... **Mark Vero** defeated **Hadrian** ... **Roman** beat **Kasey** ... **Dr. Heresy** beat **Mike Keaner**.
(08-22-00)

—Dominick Valenti

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE—WCW at the Tingley Coliseum: Cruiserweight champion **Elix Skipper** beat **Kwee Wee** ... **Reno** & **Mike Sanders** defeated **The Jung Dragons** in a handicap match ... **Gen. Rection** beat **David Flair** ... **Norman Smiley** defeated **Tank Abbott** ... **Vampiro** & **The Insane Clown Posse** beat **Three Count** ... **The Great Muta** defeated **Lex Luger** ... **Big Vito** beat **Jeff Jarrett** ... World tag team champions **Rey Misterio Jr.** & **Juventud Guerrera** defeated **Kronic** and **Mark Jindrak** & **Sean O'Haire** in a three-way match ... World champion **Booker T** beat **Kevin Nash**.
(08-27-00)

—Raymond Phillipe

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—ECW at the Hammerstein

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON—WWF at the FleetCenter: European champion **Al Snow** beat **Perry Saturn** ... **The Goodfather** & **Bull Buchanan** defeated **Too Cool** ... World tag team champions **Edge** & **Christian** beat **The Dudley Boyz** and **Lo-Down** in a three-way match ... **Eddie Guerrero** defeated **Val Venis** ... **Tazz** beat **Crash** ... **The Hardy Boyz** & **Lita** defeated **Test, Albert,** & **Trish Stratus** ... **The Undertaker** & **Rikishi** beat **Chris Benoit** & **Kane** ... Hardcore champion **Steve Blackman** defeated **Big Bossman** ... World champion **The Rock** beat **Chris Jericho** and **Triple-H** in a three-way match.
(09-02-00)

—Peter Mahoney

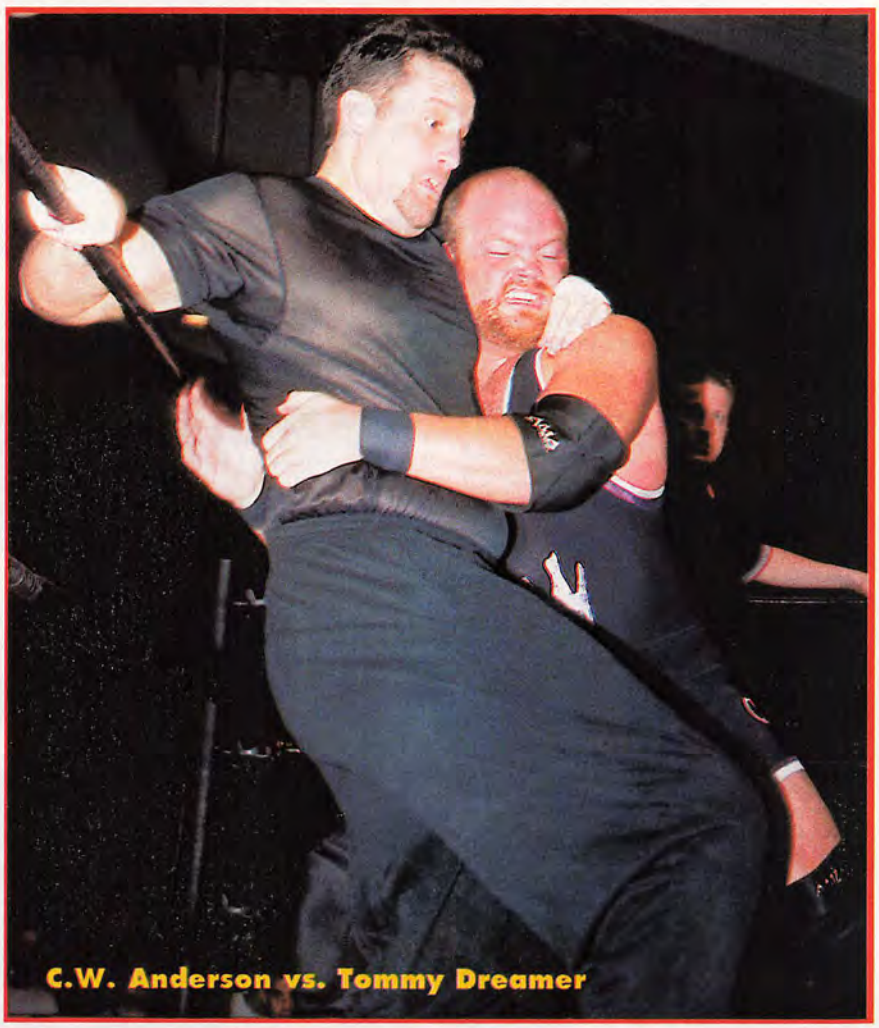
SPRINGFIELD—WWF at the Civic Center: **Lo Down** beat **Kaientai** ... **Ivory** defeated **Jacquelyn** ... **Crash** beat **Essa Rios** ... **Rikishi** defeated **Tazz** ... **The Hardy Boyz** & **Lita** beat **Test, Albert,** & **Trish Stratus** ... Intercontinental champion **Val Venis** defeated **Al Snow** ... WWF World tag team champions **Edge** & **Christian** beat **Too Cool** ... **Kane** & **The Undertaker** defeated **Albert** & **Kurt Angle**.
(08-13-00)

—Timothy R. Fennel

MINNESOTA

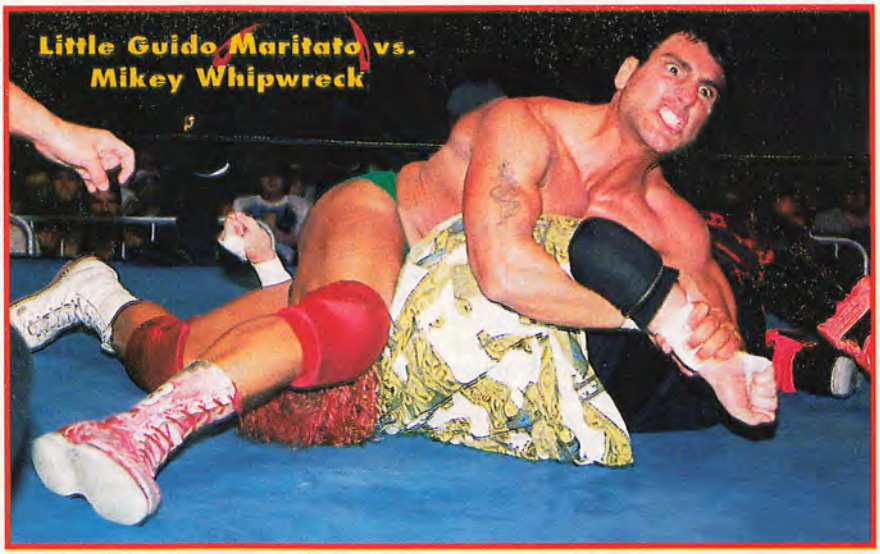
MANKATO—WCW at the Midwest Wireless Civic Center: **The Jung Dragons** beat **Three Count** ... **Crowbar** defeated **David Flair** ... **Vampiro** & **The Great Muta** beat **The Demon** in a handicap match ... Hardcore champion **Norman Smiley** defeated **Big Vito** ... World tag team champions **Juventud Guerrera** & **Rey Misterio Jr.** beat **Kronic** and **Mark Jindrak** & **Sean O'Haire** in a three-way match ... **Shane Douglas** beat **Lex Luger** ... U.S. champion **Lance Storm** defeated **Mike Awesome** ... **Stevie Ray** beat **Jeff Jarrett**.
(08-18-00)

—Ray Tiouse


C.W. Anderson vs. Tommy Dreamer

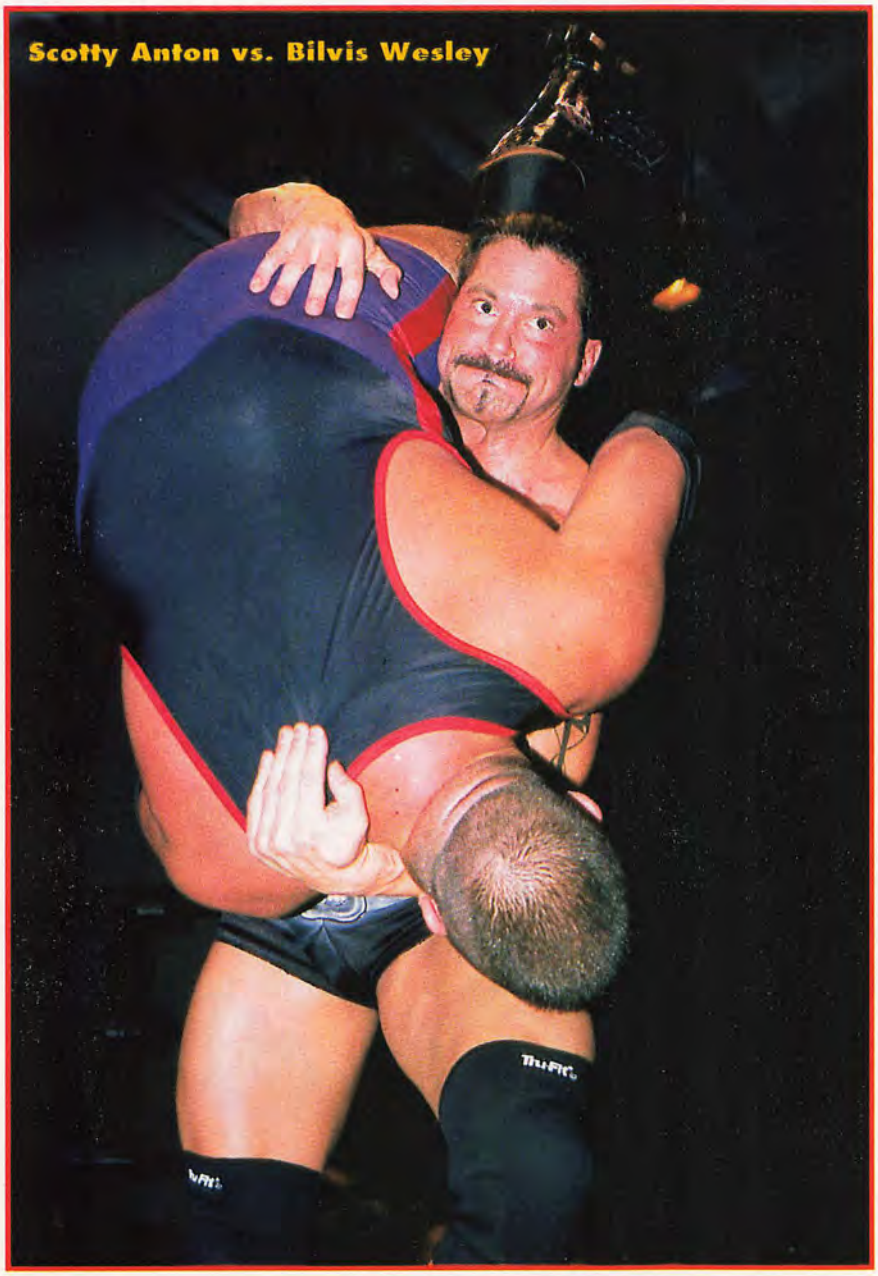
Ballroom: **Mahoney** beat **The Blue Boy** ... **Little Guido Maritato** & **Tony Mamaluke** beat World tag team champs **Mikey Whipwreck** & **Yoshihiro Tajiri** for the title ... **Psicosis** defeated **DeVito** ... **Christian York**, **Joey Matthews**, & **Tommy Dreamer** beat **Julio Dinero**, **E.Z. Money**, & **Chris Hamrick** ... **C.W. Anderson** defeated **Jerry Lynn** ... **Danny Doring** & **Roadkill** beat **Simon Diamond** & **Swinger** and **Nova** & **Chris Chetti** ... World champion **Justin Credible** defeated **Steve Corino** ... **Rob Van Dam** beat **Scotty Anton** ... **Kid Kash** defeated TV champion **Rhino** for the title.
(08-26-00)

—Stephen Drew



NEW YORK—ECW at the Hammerstein Ballroom: ***In a tournament for the vacant World tag team title, quarterfinals:*** **Julio Dinero** & **E.Z. Money** beat **Christian York** & **Joey Matthews** ... **Danny Doring** & **Roadkill** defeated **Angel** & **DeVito** ... **Simon Diamond** & **Swinger** beat **Nova** & **Chris Chetti** ... **Mikey Whipwreck** & **Yoshihiro Tajiri** defeated **Little Guido Maritato** & **Tony Mamaluke** ... **Justin Credible** & **Rhino** beat **The Sandman** & **Chilly Willy** ... **Tommy Dreamer** & **Jerry Lynn** defeated **Rob Van Dam** & **Kid Kash** ... ***Semifinals:*** Whipwreck & Tajiri beat Dinero & Money ... Swinger & Diamond defeated Doring & Roadkill ... Dreamer & Lynn beat Credible & Rhino ... ***Finals:*** Whipwreck & Tajiri defeated Swinger & Diamond and Dreamer & Lynn in a three-way dance to win the title.
(08-25-00)

—Stephen Drew



NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH—WWF SummerSlam pay-per-view at the Raleigh Entertainment Sports Arena: **Right To Censor** beat **Too Cool** & **Rikishi** ... **X-Pac** defeated **Road Dogg** ... **Eddie Guerrero** & **Chyna** beat Intercontinental champion **Val Venis** and **Trish Stratus**, with Chyna winning the I-C title via her pinfall of Stratus ... **Jerry Lawler** beat **Tazz** ... **Steve Blackman** defeated hardcore champion **Shane McMahon** to win the title ... **Chris Benoit** beat **Chris Jericho** in a best-of-three-falls match ... World tag team champions **Edge** & **Christian** beat **The Hardy Boyz** and **The Dudley Boyz** in a tables, ladders, and chairs match ... **The Kat** beat **Terri** in a stink face match ... **The Undertaker** and **Kane** fought to a no-contest ... World champion **The Rock** beat **Triple-H** and **Kurt Angle** in a three-way match.
(08-27-00)

—Dave Lenker

DURHAM—Southern Championship Wrestling at the Tobacco Roadhouse: **Saltwater Redneck** beat **Matt the Conceited Kid** ... **Poison Ivey** beat **Krash** ... **Jacey North** beat **Low-Ki** ... **Jacey North** beat **Duke Richards** ... **Mervin Snead** beat **Jacey North** ... **Southside Playas** beat **Mervin Snead** & **Dewey Cheatum** ... **Scab** beat **Lazarus** ... **Juice** beat **Kross** ... **Big Slam** beat **The Intruder IV** ... **Cham Pain** beat **William Wealth** ... **Stratus** & **Aldo DeGama** beat **Bo** & **Jack Dupp** by disqualification.
(08-25-00)

—Greg Mosorjak

OHIO

HAMILTON—Heartland Wrestling Association at the National Guard Armory: **J.J. Duquesne** pinned **Matt Stryker** ... **The A Squad** defeated

Cody Hawk & **Mad Anthony McMurphy** ... **Matt Stryker** pinned **Astin Augustus Ambrose Esq.** ... **Alexis Machine** beat **B.J. Whitmer**, **Logan Caine**, and **Rory Fox** to win an elimination match ... Cruiserweight champion **Shark Boy** beat **Tim Moxley** in a streetfight ... Heavyweight champion **Race Steele** defeated **Chip Fairway** in a ladder match.
(08-26-00)

—Katie Nieble

FAIRBORN—Outlaw Championship Wrestling at the Old Timers Banquet Hall: **The Panther** beat **Shawn Noxx** ... **Jim Hutchinson** defeated **Bobby Wright** ... Lightweight champion **The Wai Ki Ki Kid** beat **Hung Lo** ... **The Hip Hop Kid** defeated **Buddy Magnum** ... **Jamie Thunders** beat **Shawn Riot** in a taped fist match ... **The Tow Truck** defeated **Too Crazy Tim** ... **Johnnie Walker** & **Billy Sawwed Off** beat **Dominion** & **Mayhem** ... **Chris McGraw** defeated **Mike West** ... Heavyweight champion **Fabulous Frederick** beat **The Brawler** ... **Bobby Wright** won a battle royal to win the vacant National title.
(08-19-00)

—Jennifer Owens

PENNSYLVANIA

NORTH VERSAILLES—Pro Wrestling Xpress at the Wrestleplex: **Jefferson Allen** defeated **Cuefa** ... **Todd Thompson** defeated **Michael McGowan** ... **Amnesiac** defeated **Boomer Payne** ... **Jimmy Anjel** defeated **Scott Venom** ... **Dirk Ciglar** defeated **Paul Atlas** ... Heavyweight champion **Lou Marconi** defeated **J-Rocc** ... **Orion** defeated **Chris Hero** ... **Big Poppa Gator**, **J.B. Destiny**, & **Boomer Payne** defeated **Crusher Hansen**, **Homicyde**, & **Quinn Magnum** and **PowerHouse Hughes**, **Super Mantai**, & **Tommy Brown** in a three-way match.
(08-25-00)

—Kurt Reed

NORTH VERSAILLES—Pittsburgh Wrestling League at the Wrestleplex: **White Trash Hero** defeated **J-Ru** ... **Super Mantai** defeated **Super Hentai** ... **Cory K** defeated **Sean Styles** ... **Kid Cupid** & **Homicyde** defeated **Bubba the Bulldog** & **Boomer Payne** ... **Samu** defeated **Paul Atlas** via countout ... **Shirley Doe** & **Devil Bhudakahn** defeated **Dirk Ciglar** & **Scott Venom** ... Tag team champs **Crusher Hansen** & **Quinn Magnum** defeated **Guido Corleone** & **Klubber Korbelic** ... **Mad Mike** defeated **Brandon K** to win the heavyweight title.
(08-19-00)

—Len Westgate

ADAMSTOWN—Atomic Championship Wrestling at the Rod & Gun Club: **Johnny Graham** defeated **Big Hink** ... **Kid Kattrell** defeated **Shane Shannon** ... **Kid Extreme**, **Vince Bono**, & **Mean Mike** defeated **The Hooch Hollar Boys** & **Evan Leppy** in a six-man elimination match ... **Rockin' Rebel** defeated **Shatter** ... **J.D. Powers** & **Dangerous Debbie** defeated **The Meatbeaters** ... **Don Rott** defeated **Muscles Marinara** ... **Nova** defeated **Rapid Fire Maldonado** ... **The Dawg Pound** defeated **Self Employed** and **The Golden Idols** in a three-way match ... **Twisted Tate**, **Jimmy Deo**, & **DeVito** fought **The Patriot** & **The Damned** to a no-contest.
(08-23-00)

—Jason Kincade

PHILADELPHIA—ECW at the ECW Arena: **Bilvis Wesley** beat **Jerry Lynn** by disqualification ... **Steve Corino** defeated **Scotty Anton** ... **Nova** & **Chris Chetti** beat **Julio Dinero** & **Chris Hamrick** ... **Little Guido Maritato** & **Tony Mamaluke** defeated **Christian York** & **Joey Matthews** ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** beat **Psicosis** ... **Mikey Whipwreck** defeated **Pat Tanaka** ... **The Blue Boy** beat **Pit Bull I** ... **Roadkill**, **Danny Doring**, & **Tommy Dreamer** defeated **C.W. Anderson**, **Simon Diamond**, & **Swinger** ... **Rob Van Dam** & **Kid Kash** beat **Justin Credible** & **Rhino**.
(08-19-00)

—Dutch Krewda

NEW OXFORD—World Star Wrestling at Woody's Nightclub and Restaurant: **Gino Caruso** defeated **Muscles Marinara** ... **Latin Tornado** pinned **Fumar** ... **Ratishi Katua** beat **The Phantom** ... **The Bounty Hunters** wrestled **The Krash Krew** to a double-disqualification ... **Jimmy Snuka** defeated **Kodiak Bear** ... **Pinky Pinkerton** beat **Tommy Idol** ... **The Phoenix** pinned **Zoltar the Wolfman** ... **Nikolai Volkoff** pinned **Kid Kattrell**.
(08-18-00)

—Timothy A. Walker

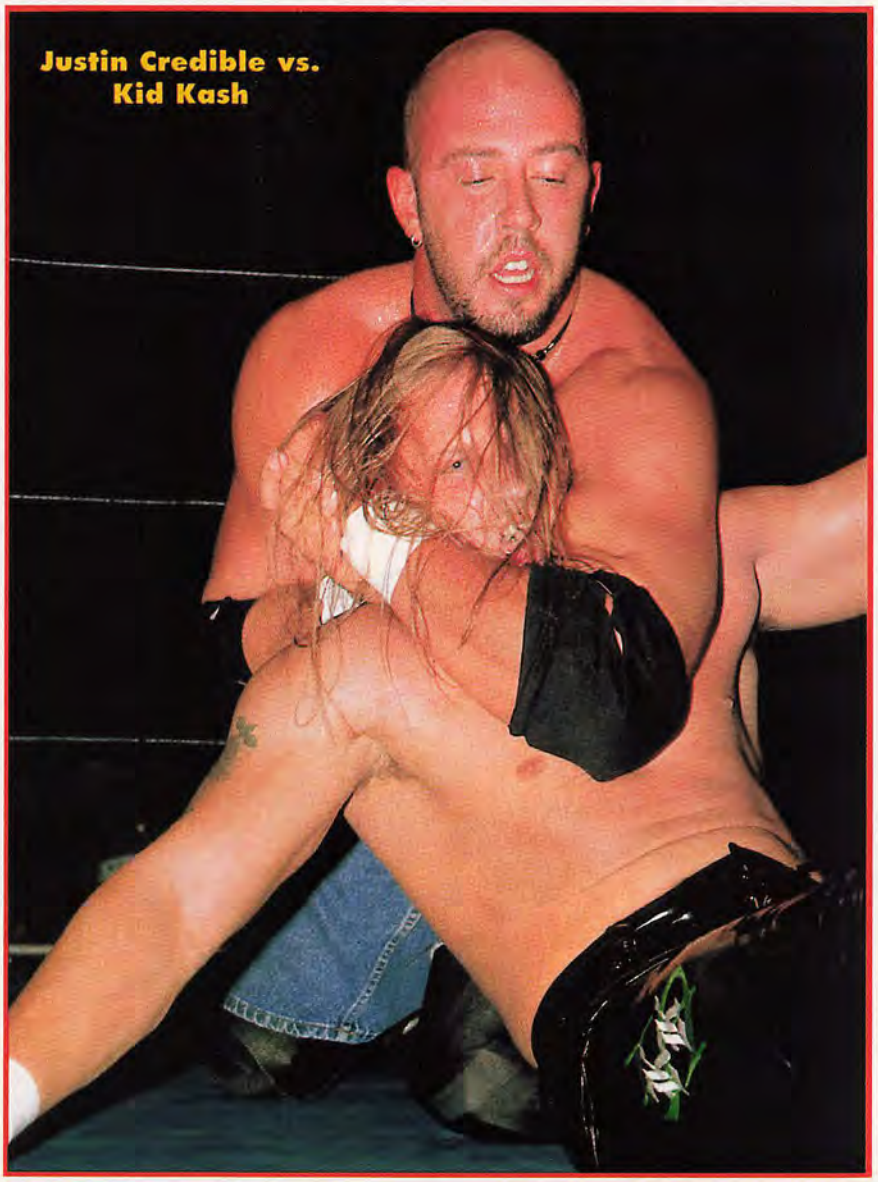
SOUTH CAROLINA

GREENVILLE—WWF at the Bi-Lo Center: Hardcore champ **Steve Blackman** beat **Big Bossman** ... Light heavyweight champion **Dean Malenko** defeated **Crash** ... **Right To Censor** beat **The Acolytes** ... Intercontinental champion **Val Venis** defeated **Chris Jericho** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Chris Benoit** by disqualification ... **Al Snow** defeated **Midian** ... **Rikishi** beat **Tazz** ... **The Hardy Boyz** & **Lita** beat **Test**, **Albert**, & **Trish Stratus** ... World champion **The Rock** defeated **Kurt Angle**.
(08-19-00)

—Michael Carpenter

GREER—Southern Carolina Wrestling at the SCW Sports Arena: **Brody Jenkins** defeated **Big Money** ... **Lance Gaylord** beat **Sonny Landell** ... **Big Daddy Kane** defeated **Malice** ... **Long Dom Silver** beat **Cruizer Lewis** by countout ... **Christian Stone** defeated **Jeff Hart** to win the hardcore title ... **Cruizer Lewis** won a battle royal.
(08-15-00)

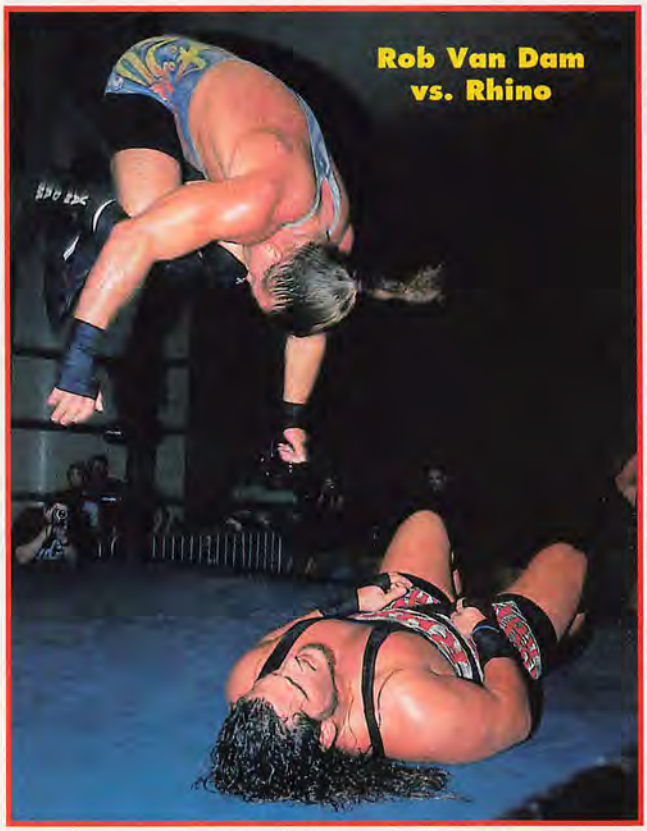
—Dominick Parisi


Justin Credible vs. Kid Kash

VIRGINIA

ALTA VISTA—Virginia Wrestling Federation at the Booker Building: **Doink the Clown** defeated **Gator** ... **Rustee "The Foxx" Thomas** beat **Kiley McLean** ... **The Young Guns** defeated **The Russian Mafia** ... **Laz** beat **Hot Property** ... **Rick Morton** & **Lodi** defeated **Beef** & **Dylan Knight**.
(09-01-00)

—Don Kerwin



NEWPORT NEWS—Virginia Championship Wrestling at Mitty's Nightclub: Cruiserweight champion **Hot Property** beat **Steve Perez** by disqualification ... **Chris Jacobs**, **Idol X**, & **The K-Assassin** defeated **The Russian Mafia** & **Mervin Snead** ... **Ray Storm** beat **Sexsisto the Latin Lover** ... **Lexie Fyfe** defeated **Robert Royal** ... **Cueball Carmichael** beat **Jacey North** in a loser-leaves-VCW match ... Heavyweight champ **Preston Quinn** defeated **2 Damn Badd**.
(08-27-00)

—Justin Russell

VIRGINIA BEACH—ECW at the GTE Amphitheater: **Nova** & **Chris Chetti** beat **Bilvis Wesley** & **Prodigy** ... **Mahoney** defeated **Redd Dogg** ... **Little Guido Maritato** & **Tony Marinara** beat **Joey Matthews** & **Christian York** ... **Jerry Lynn** defeated **C.W. Anderson** ... **Psicosis** beat **Yoshihiro Tajiri** ... **Tommy Dreamer**, **Roadkill**, & **Danny Doring** defeated **E.Z. Money**, **Julio Dinero**, & **Chris Hamrick** ... **Rob Van Dam** & **Kid Kash** beat **DeVito** & **Angel** ... **Scotty Anton** defeated **Steve Corino** ... **The Sandman** & **Chilly Willy** beat **Justin Credible** & **Rhino**.
(08-18-00)

—William Leavings

WEST VIRGINIA

MOOREFIELD—Championship Pro Wrestling at the High School: **Jacey North** pinned **Mercury** ... **Gabriel Knight** beat **Richie Stevens** ... **Gabriel Knight** defeated **Xavier Macabre** ... **Diablos Macabre** beat **Gabriel Knight** ... **Brock Singleton** defeated **Zubov** ... **Mohammad Kane** beat **Shane Shadows** in a last man standing match ... **Mr. Big Stuff** beat **Eric Evans** & **Mike Christian** in a handicap match ... **Mason Hunter** defeated **Bad Bubba Brewer** ... **Brian Johnson** pinned **Switchblade** ... **Mohammad Kane** won a battle royal.
(08-26-00)

—Dave Hunter

STONEWOOD—Mason Dixon Wrestling at the Stonewood Fire Hall: **Thrillbilly Ox** beat **Johnny Blast** ... **Scotty McKeever** beat **Scott E. Lime** ... **The Nomad** beat heavyweight champion **Mason Hunter** by disqualification ... **The Southern Brawler** beat **Hardcore Hancock** ... Tag team champs **The Masked Assassins** beat **Puck** & **Billy Aldrich**.
(08-16-00)

—Mark Mills

OAK HILL—APW at the National Guard Armory: **Brian Douglas** & **Danny Ray** defeated **Cuban Assassin II** & **Steve Hart** ... **Wild American** defeated **Roger Hamm** ... **Chris Hamrick** defeated **Canadian Grappler** ... **Urban Death Squad** defeated **The New Breed** ... **War Machine** defeated **The Zebra Kid**.
(08-15-00)

—Yes Greenleaf

WISCONSIN

MENOMONIE—AAW at the Ice Arena: **Eric Hammers** defeated **Sgt. Medallian** ... **Jack Miller** defeated **Bad Boy Brown** ... **Cujo** & **Adam Booker** defeated **Tank** & **Trailer Trash Tim** ... **Prep Boy** defeated **Travis Lee** and **Kamikaze Ken** in a three-way match ... **Choo-Choo** defeated **Mason Diggs** ... **Tower**, **Mike Geuke**, & **Mad Wolverine** defeated **Cell Block 5** & **Mike Palmer** ... **The Natural Man** defeated **Adrian Lynch** to win the heavyweight title ... **Angel Armoni** defeated **Horace the Psychopath** ... **L.A. Mauler** defeated **Killer Claw**.
(8-19-00)

—Nicholas Loken

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

TECUMSEH, ONTARIO—Border City Wrestling at the Tecumseh Cornfest: **Mike Legacy** defeated **Gutter** ... **Jack Damage** beat **Anthony Rivera** ... **Geza Kalman Jr.** & **Dyson Pryce** defeated **Larry Destiny** & **Bobby Clancy** to win the tag team title ... **Doink the Clown** pinned **Tommy Wonder** ... **El Tornado** defeated **Tyson Dux** ... **Chris Pillon** defeated **Chris Valentino** ... TV champ **The Brooklyn Brawler** beat **Breyer Wellington** ... **Scott D'Amore** & **Otis Apollo** defeated **Demolition 2000**.
(08-26-00)

—Angelica Rowbottom

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA—WCW New Blood Rising pay-per-view at the Coliseum: **Three Count** beat **The Jung Dragons** in a double-ladder match ... **Ernest "The Cat" Miller** defeated **The Great Muta** ... **Buff Bagwell** beat **Chris Kanyon** in a **Judy Bagwell**-on-a-forklift match ... World tag team champions **Kronic** defeated **The Perfect Event**, **Gen. Rection** & **Cpl. Cajun**, and **Mark Jindrak** & **Sean O'Haire** in a four-way match ... **Billy Kidman** beat **Shane Douglas** in a strap match ... **Major Gunns** defeated **Miss Hancock** in a mudpit match ... **Sting** beat **The Demon** ... U.S. champion **Lance Storm** defeated **Mike Awesome** (**Jacques Rougeau** was the special referee) ... **The Great Muta** & **Vampiro** beat World tag team champions **Kronic** to win the title ... **Kevin Nash** defeated **Scott Steiner** and **Bill Goldberg** in a three-way match ... World champion **Booker T** beat **Jeff Jarrett**.
(08-13-00)

—Will Welsh

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY
JANUARY

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES—NWA at the Olympic Auditorium: **Cowboy Laine** beat **Kenji Shibuya** ... **Tony Rocco** defeated **Wild Man Armstrong** ... **Black Gordman** & **Goliath** beat **Francisco Flores** & **La Pantera Negra** ... **Raul Mata** defeated **Rip Kirby** ... **Earl Maynard** & **Dory Dixon** beat **Massa Saito** & **The Masked Terror**.
(01-20-72)

—PWI archives

FLORIDA

TAMPA—NWA at the Fort Homer Hesterly Armory: **Don Serrano** and **Luis Astea** wrestled to a time-limit draw ... **Bubba Douglas** defeated **Mike Miller** ... **Nikolai Volkoff** beat **Gordon Nelson** ... **Bryan St. John**, **Stan Lane**, & **Nikolai Volkoff** beat **Jack Brisco**, **Jerry Brisco**, & **Don Diamond** ... **Uvalde Slim** defeated **The Super Destroyer** ... **Manny Fernandez** beat **Leroy Brown** by disqualification ... **Mike Graham** defeated **Bugsy McGraw**.
(01-15-80)

—PWI archives

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS—NWA at the Kiel Auditorium: **Mark Romero** & **Manny Fernandez** beat **Jerry Brown** & **Kim Duk** ... **Rick Martel** defeated **Roger Kirby** ... **Bobby Duncum** beat **Mike George** ... **Greg Valentine** & **Bob Orton** defeated **Dick the Bruiser** & **Bob Brown** ... **Bruiser Brody** beat **Crusher Ayala** ... **Kerry Von Erich** defeated Missouri state champion **Harley Race** by disqualification ... World champion **Ric Flair** beat **Butch Reed**.
(01-01-83)

—PWI archives

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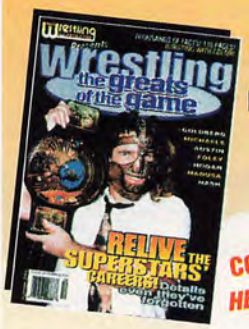

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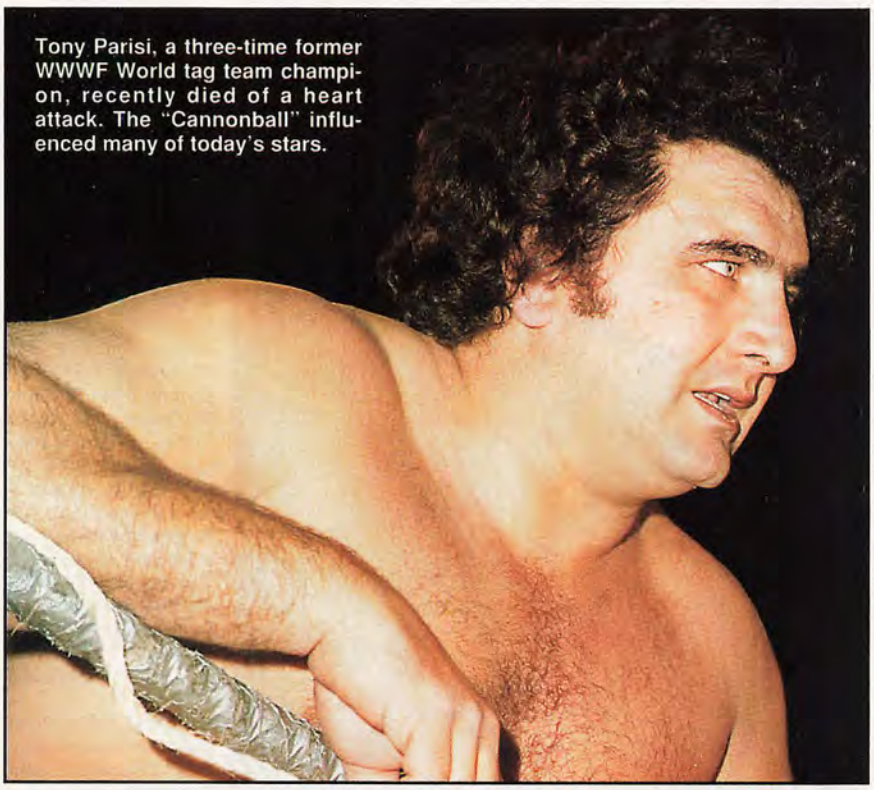

Tony Parisi, a three-time former WWWF World tag team champion, recently died of a heart attack. The "Cannonball" influenced many of today's stars.

With the NWA readying its heavyweight title tournament as of press time, the promotion's newly crowned tag team champions, **Rick Michaels** and **David Young**—collectively known as **Bad Attitude**—returned to their home base of Cornelia, Georgia, and thanked the fans there for supporting them.

"Listen, I've been with the WWF, and I've been with WCW, but there's nothing like wrestling in front of the fans of NWA Wildside," Young said when I caught up with him backstage. "The people here, they know good wrestling. And for Rick and I to represent them as their NWA tag team champs, I don't think I can think of anything better. I just hope we do them proud."

Judging from the reaction the fans gave their returning champions, I don't think Michaels and Young have anything to worry about.

Sadly, a number of deaths rocked the wrestling world during the month of August.

Three-time former WWWF World tag team champion **Tony Parisi** died of a heart attack on August 19. In his three reigns as WWWF World tag team champion, "Cannonball" Parisi held the belts with three different partners: **Johnny Valentine**, **Spiros Arion**, and **Louis Cerdan**. A protege of **Bruno Sammartino**—the WWWF booked Parisi as Bruno's cousin—Parisi was often targeted by Sammartino's enemies as a way to draw matches with the WWWF World champion. His finisher, a seated splash from the top rope, was appropriately named the Cannonball.

Also sad to report are the deaths of former wrestler **Mitch Snow**, longtime *PWI* correspondent **Bill Needham**, and independent wrestlers **Mike Marcello** and **Tony Nash**.

All five men will be missed.

That's it for me this month, fans. Enjoy your wanderings. □

gordon solie

(Continued from page 37)

At the time, Gordon commented, "I'll go home with the one I brought to the dance." Integrity meant more than money to him.

Gordon made a heartfelt personal connection with thousands of viewers each week, whether it was the Florida, Georgia, or Alabama show. He also made personal connections when he talked to people one on one. He once told me about a "helluva conversation" he had with Lillian Carter, mother of former President Jimmy Carter. To Gordon, though, he could have an equally meaningful discussion with a plumber sitting at a bar.

My dad was extremely kind-hearted. He was quick to loan money to people and was involved in several children's charities. The Florida Sheriffs' Boys Ranch and Girls Villa, an organization that helps wayward children, was one of his favorites.

While I had personal respect for my dad all my life, I developed a professional respect when I worked with him in the late-1980s. After the original Championship Wrestling From Florida promotion shut down, Mike Graham, Steve Keirn, and my dad established Florida Championship Wrestling. He handled the advertising and play-by-play responsibilities, while I interviewed the wrestlers. Later, I did color commentary alongside him.

Gordon was so good at his craft that he didn't need to do prep work and was always ready when the cameras began rolling. He didn't need a teleprompter, either. His smooth delivery came naturally.

His 40-year announcing career ended in the early-1990s. He was hit hard when Smokey died of a brain tumor a few years ago. Not long after that, Gordon was diagnosed with throat cancer. His voice box was removed and he learned to speak with an electronic device.

It was an especially cruel disease for a man known for his distinctive voice. It took a while for him to master the device and for the family to completely understand him, but he was actually very talkative with it. He called it his "R2-D2."

This past April, doctors informed my dad that the cancer had returned. He was given four or five months to live. He died on July 26, 2000, at age 71. He left behind five children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Numerous wrestling greats attended the memorial service. Baseball great Wade Boggs, who became a fan of Gordon while growing up in Tampa, was one of many who delivered touching statements at his funeral.

A few years ago, my dad and I were walking down the street when a man and his young son approached us. The man was very courteous and introduced Gordon to the boy. "This is the number-one wrestling commentator in the world, and there will never be anybody like him."

Amen. □

From top to bottom: Gordon on the job with Dusty Rhodes ... trying to avoid Johnny Rich (who was shoved by Don Muraco) ... chatting with Larry Zbyszko and Bob Geigel ... interviewing Ric Flair ... with an irate Tommy Rich ... with The Iron Sheik ... and kidding around with Road Warrior Hawk.

between falls

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HOG WILD!

The Undertaker may still dress in mostly black, but that's the only part of the current version that even remotely resembles The Undertaker of old. Gone are the evil ceremonies and sorcerer robes. Also gone is the specter of death that routinely followed 'Taker to the ring. Undertaker 2000 is a motorcycle-riding, dip-chewing son of a gun. Because of the transformation, we questioned whether "The Man From The Dark Side" would win the WWF championship a fourth time in the December 2000 issue of *PWI*. Reader reaction to the story was varied.

"Because The Undertaker is no longer worried about rites and ceremonies, he's more dangerous," wrote Parker Last of Burnsville, Minnesota. "He can just kick ass."

"The Undertaker will win the title a fourth time," wrote Sean Tampico of Van Nuys, California. "He's too good to fail."

"I don't think Undertaker will have another reign as WWF champion, because there is no more Undertaker," e-mailed Eric Murphy of Allentown, Pennsylvania. "Sure, 'Taker's still wrestling, but he's not really The Undertaker anymore. He's different."

PASSING OF A LEGEND

The world of professional wrestling lost a true legend with the passing of announcer Gordon Solie. There is no doubt in my mind that Solie was the greatest wrestling announcer of all-time. He will never be topped.

Solie took pride in his work and in the sport he announced. He never became part of the circus atmosphere of pro wrestling and always lent credibility to the sport. In listening to him call past matches on videotape, I am still amazed at just how good he was.

While Jim Ross was once a close second to Solie (now he is nothing more than part of the circus, complete with funny-looking hat) and young announcers such as Scott Hudson and Mike Tenay show tremendous potential, there will never be another Gordon Solie. He is a big part of the reason I am a wrestling fan, and I will always be grateful for what he gave to the sport.

CHRIS BRIDGES
Winder, GA

I was saddened to learn that legendary announcer Gordon Solie had died.

Nicknamed "The Dean," Solie was truly the announcer of all announcers. An expert analyst of the grappling game, Gordon earned the respect of fans, wrestlers, and journalists all over the world for his calling of some of the most famous matches in the history of the sport.

Solie's impact on the sport is still felt today, as many of today's top broadcasters have credited Gordon with inspiring them in their decision to become blow-by-blow men.

Our sport has lost another legend, but heaven has gained a great announcer.

ADAM WILCOX
Niagara Falls, ON

THE BOOK ON BOOKER

Booker T is going to be a great WCW World champion. He is a classic example of what pro wrestling was. He has the mike work and the skills to maintain a good match for more than 20 minutes—and a lot of WWF superstars can't even do that.

WCW stands for World Championship *Wrestling*, and I think that's why people

While on the set of *World Championship Wrestling*, Gordon Solie could often be found with a silly grin on his face. That kind of thing happens when you love your job. Solie's recent death left an indelible mark on many fans.

originally loved the old NWA. It was the wrestling along with the storylines that made sense, not some sideshow soap opera.

Booker T is the champ. We should all be proud.

OSCAR F. LOPEZ
Salinas, CA

Ever since Booker T won the WCW World title, he's been wanting to imitate the people's champ, The Rock. Well, sorry, but Booker T's no Rock. He doesn't have the talent, style, or the personality.

I am the number-one fan of The Rock, and it just makes me mad to see a wannabe.

AMY SILVA
Nogales, AZ

STATE OF THE GAME

First, I'll start with the WWF. From August 1999 until June 2000, Triple-H and The Rock were in some sort of feud. And, to be honest, I got burned out on it. In May, I commented to a friend that if the Judgment Day pay-per-view featured another Triple-H-Rock match, I wouldn't get it. But Shawn Michaels came in and saved the day. Since King of the Ring, the WWF has embarked on new storylines and I'm glad it realized things were getting stale.

Now, WCW is a different story. The April 10 *Nitro* was a landmark event in which Vince Russo and Eric Bischoff changed the face of WCW in one night. Since then, they have been up and down. That Bash at the Beach incident with Hogan, if it's phony, could be the most interesting wrestling plot in a long while. If it's real, who knows where WCW will go from here. I just ask WCW one thing: Bring Scott Hall back.

Overall, wrestling is looking good for the future.

DAVID HEALLY
Kansas City, MO

KING KURT

It really does go without saying that when it comes to recognizing and developing potential talent, Vince McMahon is a genius. As a former Olympic hero, Kurt Angle could have easily become the second coming of Bob Backlund. Vince, however, sensed something special in Angle and allowed him to hone his skills freely, both in the ring and on the microphone. With a King of the Ring victory, along with his ability on the mike, Angle has put himself on par with WWF superstars like Chris Jericho and The Rock.

MIKE DOLNYCKY
Philadelphia, PA

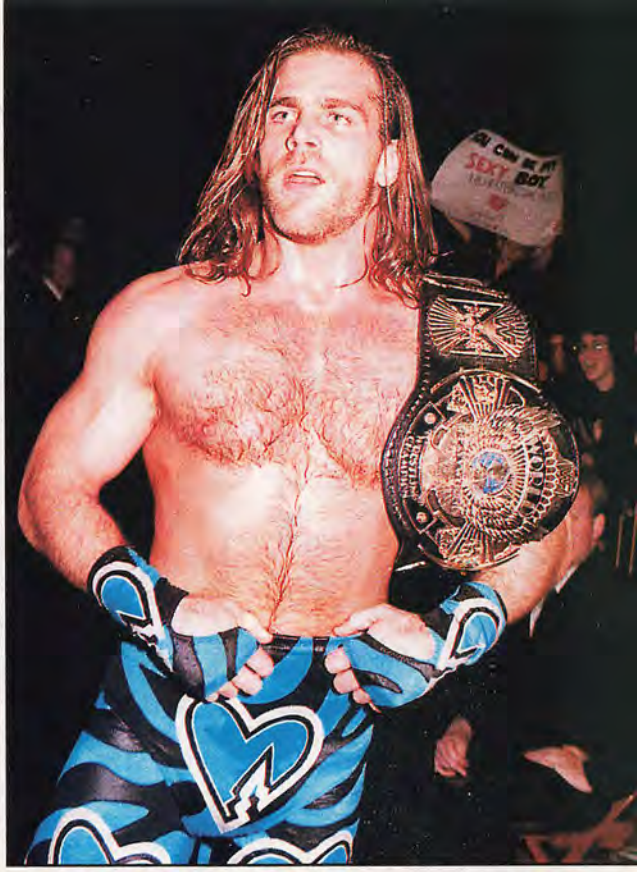
STILL "THE SHOWSTOPPER"

I was elated when I picked up the October issue of *PWI* and saw the "Press Conference" with Shawn Michaels! HBK is my favorite wrestler of all-time, and since his retirement, I don't see him as much as I'd like to.

The interview was a real eye-opener in regard to his feelings on several subjects. It made me very happy to read that he's happy with his life and family.

I wish him all the best in his life, because he deserves it.

MARTA CRABTREE-MONK
Cookeville, TN



In his prime, Shawn Michaels was the best of the best. Reader Marta Crabtree-Monk enjoyed *PWI's* recent "Press Conference" with the former WWF champ.

TOUGH ENOUGH

I just finished watching the *Toughman World Championship* on FX that featured pro football players against pro wrestlers in team competition. I was not at all surprised that the football players got their butts kicked and the wrestlers proved their superiority once again. Just like when Dan Severn won the Ultimate Fighting Championship, pro wrestlers have shown they are much more than showmen; they are also the toughest athletes in the world. Wrestlers everywhere deserve the respect of all sports fans.

DANIEL HERRERA
Cerritos, CA □

PWI HOTLINE EXTRA!

YOUR ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTION OF THE WEEK!

Question of the Week: What should Vince McMahon's role on WWF TV be? (August 15 to August 21, 2000)

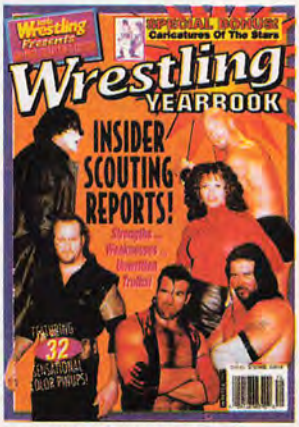
Hotline callers respond: "Vince McMahon is smart to remove himself from TV every few months," said Chelsea Caruth of London, England. "It keeps his character fresh and exciting."

"Vince should be on every *Raw* and *Smackdown*," said Mike Heage of Houston, Texas. "No matter how big The Rock and Triple-H get, Vince is the person most associated with the federation. He should be out front."

"I've never questioned any of Vince McMahon's decisions, and I'm not gonna start now," said Greg Bullinger of Cary, North Carolina. "He's a genius, and if he thinks he should be off TV, I guess he should be off."

WRESTLING COLLECTORS!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING?



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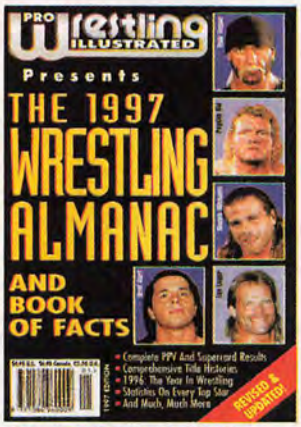
Our caricaturist, Jason Conlan, has some fun with the sport's biggest stars. 30 full-page drawings accompany 30 scouting reports. 32 color pinups!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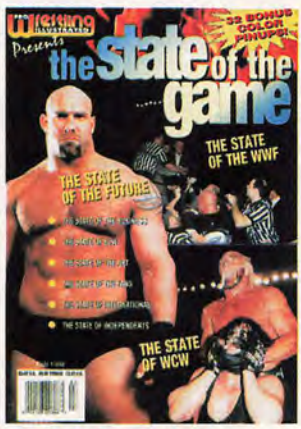
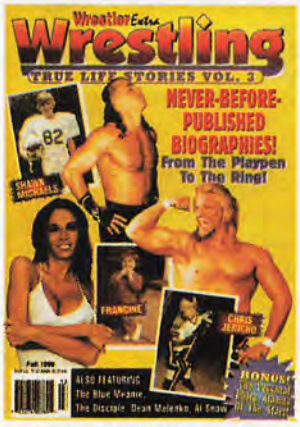


THE STATE OF THE GAME

We break the sport down in every conceivable category and present our expert analyses as to where the sport is at and where it's going. 32 color pinups!



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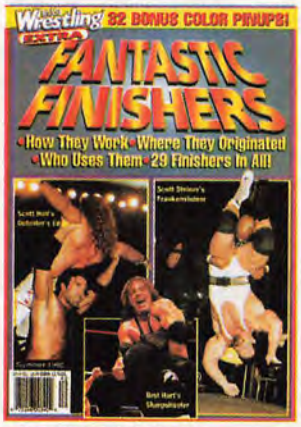
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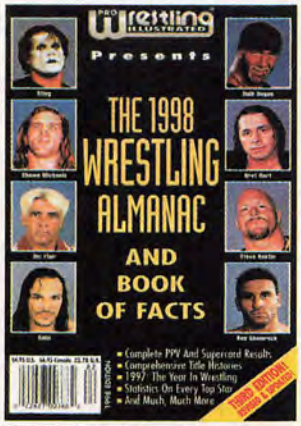
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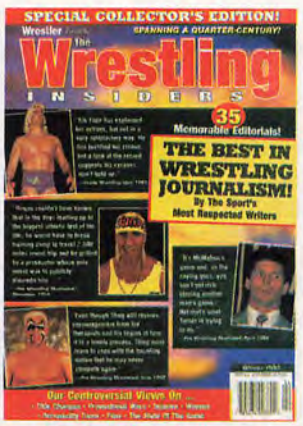

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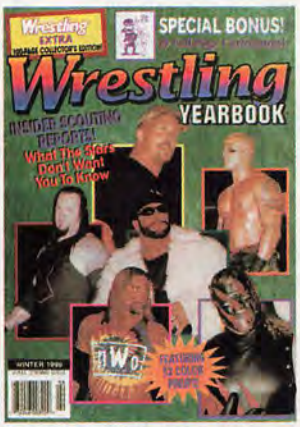

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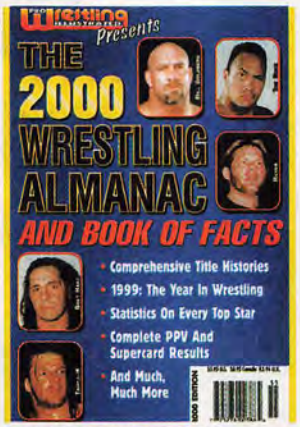
We turn loose caricaturist Jason Conlan one more time (whether his subjects like it or not!). 30 scouting reports. 32 color pinups!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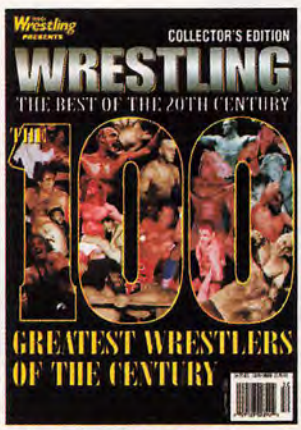

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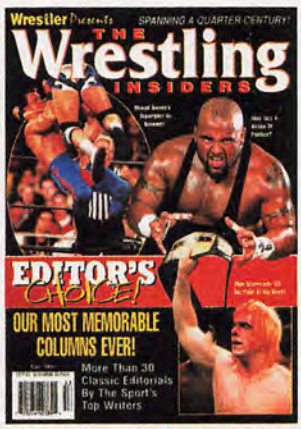
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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

CLASSIC

From the February 1991 issue

A Survey Of Wrestlers Reveals:

SCOTT STEINER IS THE BEST WRESTLER IN THE WORLD

By Dave Rosenbaum

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED has its own way of ranking wrestlers. On our ratings pages every month, we compile a Top 10 list based on the inherent skill of each wrestler, the past month's won-lost record, and quality of opposition.

But instead of arriving at a list that can be objectively and

undeniably viewed as a ranking of the 10 best in the sport, we arrive at a Top 10 that's a basis for argument among fans, journalists, and, as it turns out, even the wrestlers themselves.

Our best isn't their best.

There are far different criteria at work.

"When I step into that ring, I don't care how many matches my opponent's won or who he's been wrestling," said U.S. champion Lex Luger. "I care about how he can wrestle and what kind of danger he poses to me. A guy can be the best wrestler in the world, but if I can handle his best moves, he's not the best against me."

With this is mind, the editors of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED compiled a questionnaire and submitted it to 20 top NWA wrestlers. Their answers were given anonymously in order to ensure the greatest level of truthfulness.

Ever since the day Steiner introduced the Frankensteiner, fans and his fellow wrestlers alike have been impressed by the maneuver.

Scott Steiner was one of the finest scientific wrestlers in the world in 1991. Still, it surprised everyone at *PWI* that NWA wrestlers held him in such high regard at the time.

The questions ranged from, "Who do you try to avoid as an opponent?" to "Which move do you fear most?" to "Who is the fiercest competitor?" to "Which wrestler has the most complete repertoire?"

Our goal was to find out who the wrestlers themselves think is the best in the federation.

And although he wasn't the number-one answer to each question, Scott Steiner's name was consistently among the top in each category.

Not NWA World champion Sting. Not six-time former NWA World champion Ric Flair. Not NWA World tag team champions Ron Simmons and Butch Reed. Not Luger, Arn Anderson, or Sid Vicious.

Scott Steiner.

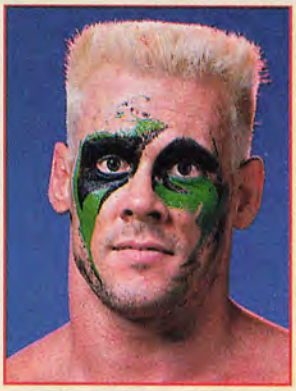
"It's an honor to get singled out by your peers," Scott said. "Still, there are a lot of great wrestlers in the NWA. Heck, I haven't even won a singles title here yet!"

He could, at least in the minds of the other NWA stars.

"The suplex is one of the most painful moves in the sport, and Steiner has a collection like nobody else," said one NWA wrestler. "His Frankensteiner is awesome, he's strong as a bull, and he never gives up. When I wrestle Steiner, I know I'm in for a night's work. Make that a *week's* work."

Steiner's style—always straight-ahead—constantly has

PWI RATINGS February 1991



Sting

TOP 10
1. Sting
2. The Ultimate Warrior
3. Lex Luger
4. Kerry Von Erich
5. Curt Hennig
6. Sid Vicious
7. Hulk Hogan
8. Ric Flair
9. Jerry Lawler
10. Steve Keirn

TAG TEAMS
1. The Hart Foundation
2. Doom
3. Rick & Scott Steiner
4. Arn Anderson & Ric Flair
5. Honky Tonk Man & Greg Valentine
6. The Nasty Boys
7. Demolition
8. Larry & Rip Oliver
9. Tony Anthony & Doug Gilbert
10. Steve Armstrong & Tracey Smothers

NWA
World champion: Sting
1. Lex Luger
2. Sid Vicious
3. Black Scorpion
4. Stan Hansen
5. Arn Anderson
6. Ric Flair
7. Terry Taylor
8. Junkyard Dog
9. The Juicer
10. Norman

WWF
World champion: The Ultimate Warrior
1. Kerry Von Erich
2. Curt Hennig
3. Randy Savage
4. Earthquake
5. Ted DiBiase
6. Sgt. Slaughter
7. Hulk Hogan
8. Rick Martel
9. Dusty Rhodes
10. Dino Bravo

AWA
World champion: Larry Zbyszko
1. Nikita Koloff
2. Tatsumi Fujinami
3. The Trooper
4. Col. DeBeers
5. Scott Norton
6. Wayne Bloom
7. Mike Enos
8. Larry Cameron
9. Harley Race
10. Buck Zumhofe

USWA
Heavyweight champion: Jerry Lawler
1. Austin Idol
2. Eddie Gilbert
3. Terry Funk
4. Jeff Jarrett
5. Dick Murdoch
6. Dick Slater
7. Jeff Gaylord
8. John Tatum
9. Tony Anthony
10. Mark Callous

MOST POPULAR
1. Hulk Hogan
2. Sting
3. Lex Luger
4. The Ultimate Warrior
5. Kerry Von Erich
6. Scott Steiner
7. Tugboat
8. Big Bossman
9. Jerry Lawler
10. Jake Roberts

MOST HATED
1. Sid Vicious
2. Earthquake
3. Ted DiBiase
4. Black Scorpion
5. Stan Hansen
6. Eddie Gilbert
7. Ric Flair
8. Sgt. Slaughter
9. Steve Austin
10. The Grappler

One of the reasons Steiner was so respected early in his career was his attention to detail in executing basic moves like the fireman's carry. He learned a lot at the University of Michigan.

opponents fighting to avoid backward movement. Although he isn't the most complete wrestler, he's pretty close. And he might be the most fearless.

"As far as overall ability, there's nobody like Flair," an NWA fan favorite said. "He has all the moves, and he knows just when to use them. But Flair sometimes relaxes during a match. Steiner keeps coming at you."

Steiner and Luger fared about equally on the question, "Which one move of all potential opponents do you fear most?"

Opponents are terrified of Luger's backbreaker. Many of those questioned, however, pointed out that Luger often fails to complete the move. The Frankensteiner is almost always a success.

"He only uses it when he knows it's going to work," one wrestler said. "You get to the point in a match where you're helpless to avoid it. It's basically curtains. But look at Luger: How many times did he get Flair up in

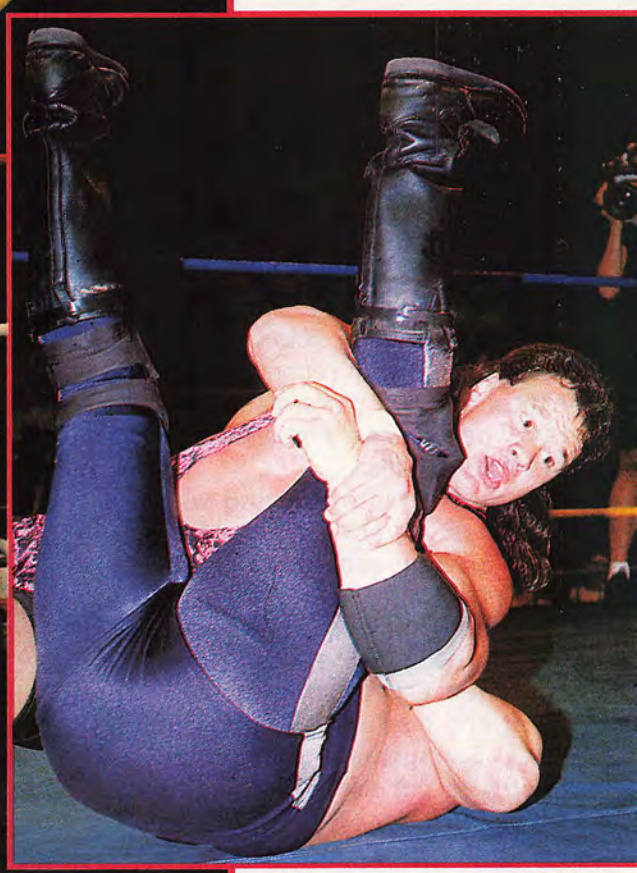
the rack and fail to complete the move?"

Sting was often mentioned when we asked, "Who best combines scientific and brawling ability?" The World champ reached the top because of his ability to wrestle in any style.

Again, however, Steiner scored high on this question. He was one of the finest collegiate wrestlers in the country. As a pro, he has bulked up and added the ability to brawl.

"Some guys wrestle scientifically for a while, then they'll go to punching and kicking, then they'll go back again," another wrestler said. "Steiner can do both at once. He'll hit you with a takedown, then he'll maul you with his fists. It's disheartening."

To our surprise, madmen such as Stan Hansen and Sid Vicious were rarely mentioned in our survey. Apparently, most wrestlers find these men too one-dimensional. They all brawl, but do little else. They are surely dangerous,



Back in 1991, it was a pretty safe bet that if Steiner hit his Frankensteiner (left), he'd almost certainly follow it up with a pinfall (above).

Sometimes the only way to escape Steiner once he cinched on a hold was to try to grab for the ropes.

but they can be beaten.

Steiner, as he pointed out himself, has never won a singles title in the NWA. But an examination of his singles match record reveals almost flawless performance: He rarely gets pinned, and often wins matches by pinfall.

"Stepping into the ring with Steiner is like asking for a black mark on your record," was one response.

Perhaps he has not reached the top because he hasn't concentrated on reaching the top. Scott and his brother, Rick, are the U.S. tag team champions. Scott has put aside his singles aspirations—for now.

"I don't really have any," he admitted. "I'd rather wrestle with Rick."

Perhaps his attitude will change now that he's been singled out as the best of the best. □

PWI, February 1991

The cover: *PWI* ran a trivia contest, the winner of which got a spectacular WrestleMania VII prize package that included round-trip airfare for two to Los Angeles, hotel accommodations, and two tickets to the card. To be eligible to win, readers had to correctly answer all 20 of our multiple choice WrestleMania questions. Kyle McIntosh of Severn, Maryland, was the lucky man.

All In The Family: To gain an upper hand in their feud with the legendary Dusty Rhodes, Ted DiBiase and Virgil started harassing Dustin, Dusty's son. Their tactics seemed to work, to an extent. Because Dusty was distracted, DiBiase scored several wins over him. "The Million-Dollar Man" found out, however, that *Dustin* was much tougher than he thought.

Enter The Sandman: Sid Vicious actually had the gall to tell *PWI* that, like the bully on the beach in those old Charles Atlas ads, he "kicked sand in Lex Luger's face," that he completely dominated him in their matches and the only reason he didn't win Luger's NWA U.S. title was because he didn't want it. Luger, of course, saw things differently.

Terry Talks: Terry Funk was featured in "Press Conference," where he talked about, believe it or not, his recent decision to unretire. "I'm still as good as I've ever been. I know now that I was wrong to have quit when I did, because I've still got a lot of fire left in these britches," he stated.

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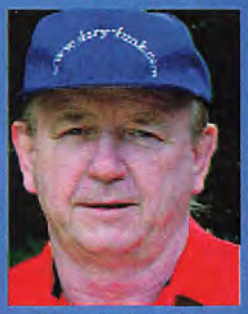

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Val Venis
Christian
Edge
Test
Rikishi
Lita
Matt Hardy
Jeff Hardy
Adam Windsor
Albert
Steve Corino
Rhino
Mideon
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Crash Holly
Crowbar
Sean Stasiak
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Misawa
Tsuruta
Tenryu

Adam Windsor, NWA Florida Heavyweight Champ

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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

TOP 10

1. **THE ROCK**
   272, Miami, FL
   (1) WWF World champion
2. **JUSTIN CREDIBLE**
   227, Waterbury, CT
   (2) ECW World champion
3. **TRIPLE-H**
   284, Greenwich, CT
   (9) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
4. **KENSUKE SASAKI**
   251, Tokyo, Japan
   (5) IWGP heavyweight champion
5. **KEVIN NASH**
   356, Detroit, MI
   (-) WCW World champion
6. **LANCE STORM**
   231, Calgary, Alberta
   (-) WCW U.S. champion
7. **CHRIS BENOIT**
   218, Edmonton, Alberta
   (3) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
8. **ROB VAN DAM**
   237, Battle Creek, MI
   (8) No. 2 contender: ECW World title
9. **BOOKER T**
   250, Houston, TX
   (6) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
10. **KURT ANGLE**
    233, Pittsburgh, PA
    (7) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

Lance Storm

TAG TEAMS

1. **CHRISTIAN & EDGE**
   Combined weight: 465 pounds
   (1) WWF World tag team champions
2. **JUVENTUD GUERRERA & REY MISTERIO JR.**
   Combined weight: 305 pounds
   (-) WCW World tag team champions
3. **SATOSHI KOJIMA & HIROYOSHI TENZAN**
   Combined weight: 493 pounds
   (-) IWGP International tag team champions
4. **JEFF & MATT HARDY**
   Combined weight: 422 pounds
   (6) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
5. **TONY MAMALUKE & LITTLE GUIDO MARITATO**
   Combined weight: 420 pounds
   (-) ECW World tag team champions
6. **KRONIC**
   Combined weight: 622 pounds
   (2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
7. **BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   (8) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
8. **YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI & MIKEY WHIPWRECK**
   Combined weight: 428 pounds
   (-) No. 1 contenders: ECW World tag title
9. **BRADSHAW & FAAROOQ**
   Combined weight: 599 pounds
   (10) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
10. **DON & RON HARRIS**
    Combined weight: 592 pounds
    (-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

WCW

World Champion:
KEVIN NASH
(C) 356, Detroit, MI

1—LANCE STORM
(-) 231, Calgary, Alberta
2—BOOKER T
(C) 250, Houston, TX
3—BILL GOLDBERG
(2) 283, Tulsa, OK
4—SCOTT STEINER
(3) 275, Detroit, MI
5—JEFF JARRETT
(1) 230, Nashville, TN
6—MIKE AWESOME
(9) 285, Tampa, FL
7—STING
(-) 260, Venice Beach, CA
8—SHANE DOUGLAS
(5) 255, Pittsburgh, PA
9—GEN. RECTION
(-) 310, Titusville, FL
10—BIG VITO
(8) 265, Staten Island, NY

WWF

World Champion:
THE ROCK
(C) 272, Miami, FL

1—EDDIE GUERRERO
(9) 221, El Paso, TX
2—TRIPLE-H
(4) 284, Greenwich, CT
3—CHRIS BENOIT
(2) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
4—KURT ANGLE
(3) 233, Pittsburgh, PA
5—KANE
(8) 345, parts unknown
6—THE UNDERTAKER
(6) 328, Death Valley, CA
7—VAL VENIS
(1) 250, Oakville, Ontario
8—STEVE BLACKMAN
(-) 245, Annville, PA
9—CHRIS JERICHO
(5) 225, Winnipeg, Manitoba
10—AL SNOW
(-) 232, Lima, OH

ECW

World Champion:
JUSTIN CREDIBLE
(C) 227, Waterbury, CT

1—RHINO
(1) 285, Detroit, MI
2—ROB VAN DAM
(2) 237, Battle Creek, MI
3—KID KASH
(5) 230, Johnson City, TN
4—JERRY LYNN
(3) 224, Minneapolis, MN
5—YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI
(7) 224, Tokyo, Japan
6—TOMMY DREAMER
(6) 265, Yonkers, NY
7—STEVE CORINO
(-) 215, Sea Isle City, NJ
8—SCOTTY ANTON
(9) 235, Atlanta, GA
9—PSICOSIS
(-) 200, Tijuana, Mexico
10—THE SANDMAN
(4) 244, Philadelphia, PA

NWA

NWA Champion:
TITLE VACANT

1—KEVIN NORTHCUTT
(1) 348, Chalmette, LA
2—JUGGERNAUT
(-) 217, Fort Worth, TX
3—STONE MOUNTAIN
(3) 350, Stone Mountain, GA
4—REDD DOGG BEGNAUD
(-) 274, Lafayette, LA
5—NICK DINSMORE
(-) 226, Jefferson, IN
6—911
(-) 312, Philadelphia, PA
7—AWESOME ARPIN
(-) 496, Parkersburg, WV
8—GARY STEELE
(7) 241, London, England
9—GREG VALENTINE
(-) 255, Seattle, WA
10—DAN SEVERN
(-) 265, Detroit, MI

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended September 11, 2000

BAD 2 THE BONE WRESTLING: Champion—Todd Morton; **1**—Billy Black; **2**—T.J. Lightnin'; **3**—Psychodelic; **4**—The Regulator; **5**—Mitch Page; **6**—Low Rider; **7**—Josh Garrett; **8**—Biohazard; **9**—Bill Lewis; **10**—Alister Fear.

FUTURE WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Jake Daniels; **1**—Mike Quackenbush; **2**—Don Montoya; **3**—Low Ki; **4**—Dino Devine; **5**—Danny Rose; **6**—Tommy Idol; **7**—Adam Flash; **8**—Mark Shrader; **9**—High Voltage; **10**—Homicide.

GATEWAY CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Pete Madden; **1**—2 Tuff Tony; **2**—Keith Smith; **3**—Big Bad Ben; **4**—Cactus Jacques; **5**—Bull Pain; **6**—Mike Sharona; **7**—Nikki Strychnine; **8**—Jack Adonis; **9**—Makaze; **10**—Ryan Ash.

KYDA PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Tommy Dreamer; **1**—Steve Corino; **2**—Jake Damien; **3**—Brock Singleton; **4**—Maxx Intensity; **5**—Shorty Smalls; **6**—Dylan Night; **7**—Dirty Money; **8**—Frank Parker; **9**—Scotty Mayhem; **10**—Nova.

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Jimmy Cicero; **1**—Julio Fantastico; **2**—Bruiser; **3**—King Kong Bundy; **4**—Tom Brandi; **5**—Gillberg; **6**—Chad Bowman; **7**—Corporal Punishment; **8**—Ronnie Zukko; **9**—Adam Flash; **10**—The Policy.

MASON DIXON WRESTLING: Champion—Mason Hunter; **1**—Scotty McKeever; **2**—The Latin Tornado; **3**—Thrillbilly Ox; **4**—The Nomad; **5**—Brock Singleton; **6**—The Masked Assassin; **7**—Johnny Blast; **8**—J.T. Martin; **9**—Puck; **10**—Chick Scott.

NWA WORLDWIDE: Champion—Chris Harris; **1**—Colorado Kid; **2**—James Storm; **3**—Jeff Daniels; **4**—Big Bully Douglas; **5**—Chris Champion; **6**—Slash; **7**—Air Paris; **8**—Cassidy O'Reilly; **9**—Dante; **10**—Bad Ass Brown.

OKLAHOMA PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Renegade; **1**—Bull Schmitt; **2**—Rocco Valentino; **3**—Chief Red Eagle; **4**—Vinnie Valentino; **5**—Bolo; **6**—Big Daddy Moore; **7**—Cousin Cooter; **8**—Ichiban; **9**—AWOL; **10**—Heather Savage.

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Scab; **1**—Juice; **2**—Cham Pain; **3**—Rick Link; **4**—Natrone Steele; **5**—Kross; **6**—William Wealth; **7**—Q Sic; **8**—Major DeBeers; **9**—Big Slam; **10**—Lazarus.

SOUTHERN STATES WRESTLING: Champion—The War Machine; **1**—Chuck Jones; **2**—Ron Ray; **3**—Beau James; **4**—Iron Cross; **5**—K.C. Thunder; **6**—Porkchop Thomas; **7**—Mike Cooper; **8**—Flex Armstrong; **9**—Danny DeLucci; **10**—Jimmy Valiant.

UNIFIED CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Al Savage; **1**—Chad Cheetum; **2**—Joe Kane; **3**—Tony Sweatt; **4**—Big Nasty; **5**—Steve Southern; **6**—Bob Armstrong; **7**—Tommy Martinelli; **8**—Frank Smith; **9**—Raine Quapone; **10**—Minoutar.

WILD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING OUTLAWS: Champion—Indiana Kidd Jr.; **1**—Don Basher; **2**—Rob Ramer; **3**—Johnnie Walker; **4**—Itch Coma Weider; **5**—Cousin Otter; **6**—Guy Lombardo; **7**—E.Z. Cruz; **8**—Lamar Erkle; **9**—Corporal Burns; **10**—Uncle Ernie.

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
KENSUKE SASAKI
(C) 251, Tokyo, Japan

1—TATSUHITO TAKAIWA
(1) 227, Tokyo, Japan
2—JUSHIN LIGER
(2) 222, Hiroshima, Japan
3—MANABU NAKANISHI
(9) 235, Tokyo, Japan
4—SHIRO KOSHINAKA
(–) 217, Tokyo, Japan
5—YUJI NAGATA
(6) 228, Tokyo, Japan
6—HIROYOSHI TENZAN
(4) 270, Tokyo, Japan
7—TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(–) 234, Oita, Japan
8—SATOSHI KOJIMA
(5) 223, Tokyo, Japan
9—MASA CHONO
(3) 235, Tokyo, Japan
10—KOJI KANEMOTO
(7) 205, Osaka, Japan

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
TITLES VACANT

1—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(1) 245, Ashikaga, Japan
2—GENICHIRO TENRYU
(7) 235, Tokyo, Japan
3—MASA FUCHI
(2) 225, Tokyo, Japan
4—JOHNNY ACE
(–) 250, San Bernardino, CA
5—MIKE BARTON
(10) 263, Austin, TX
6—JOHNNY SMITH
(3) 235, Manchester, England
7—SABU
(–) 220, Bombay
8—TAIYO KEA
(–) 235, Honolulu, HI
9—STAN HANSEN
(9) 322, Borger, TX
10—STEVE WILLIAMS
(5) 265, Norman, OK

EMLL

EMLL Champion:
UNIVERSO DOS MIL
(C) 240, Mexico City, Mexico

1—VILLANO III
(–) 220, Mexico City, Mexico
2—RAYO DE JALISCO JR.
(3) 270, Guadalajara, Mexico
3—PIERROTH JR.
(–) 251, Cuernavaca, Mexico
4—MR. NIEBLA
(1) 185, Cualtitlan, Mexico
5—ATLANTIS
(–) 180, Guadalajara, Mexico
6—ULTIMO GUERRERO
(8) 173, Mexico City, Mexico
7—NEGRO CASAS
(–) 175, Mexico City, Mexico
8—EMILIO CHARLES JR.
(2) 222, Mexico City, Mexico
9—CIEN CARAS
(9) 240, Lagos de Moreno, Mexico
10—PERRO AGUAYO
(–) 220, Zacatecas, Mexico

AAA

AAA Champion:
LATIN LOVER
(C) 190, Monterrey, Mexico

1—HECTOR GARZA
(6) 220, Monterrey, Mexico
2—HEAVY METAL
(1) 180, Mexico City, Mexico
3—SUPER CRAZY
(–) 215, Mexico City, Mexico
4—PIRATA MORGAN
(9) 221, Mexico City, Mexico
5—PERRO AGUAYO JR.
(4) 165, Zacatecas, Mexico
6—ABISMO NEGRO
(5) 210, Pachua, Mexico
7—EL CANEK
(10) 235, Mexico City, Mexico
8—CIBERNETICO
(3) 235, Mexico City, Mexico
9—JERRY ESTRADA
(–) 239, Montclova, Mexico
10—CHARLY MANSON
(–) 221, Mexico City, Mexico

Ratings Analysis

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 22 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Missing in action. Some secondary champions missing from this month's Top 10. That's right, no WWF Intercontinental champ **Eddie Guerrero** and no ECW TV title-holder **Rhino**.

Eddie Guerrero

This really doesn't have to be bad news for "Latino Heat" and his many fans. We're starting to see the nasty, conniving Eddie of old again, and though it is difficult to watch him berate **Chyna**, it is nice to see Guerrero de-emphasizing the comedy act. He's at his best when he has that extra aggressiveness in the ring.

If Eddie continues to wrestle as ruthlessly as he had been at press time, he has a chance to be a dominant I-C champ and could even start to contend for the WWF title. The only reason he didn't make the Top 10 this month was because he didn't accomplish a whole lot before winning the I-C belt from Chyna under bogus circumstances. It was supposed to be Chyna vs. only **Kurt Angle** in that September 4 match, as Eddie insisted he only wanted to get involved in order to protect "Mamacita." We all know now that he didn't "accidentally" pin her that night; he wanted her championship no matter what the cost.

Look for Eddie to make the Top 10 next month if he is still the I-C champ.

The situation involving Rhino is much more complicated. August was a rather rough month for him. Even while he was still in the midst of his first run as ECW TV champ, he looked vulnerable in matches with **Rob Van Dam** and was fortunate those ended in no-contests. RVD was *that* determined to reclaim the TV belt that he was forced to give up due to a serious ankle injury in April.

Still, despite Rhino's struggles, we were surprised to see him lose the gold to **Kid Kash**. Nothing against Kash, but we weren't sure he was ready to play with ECW's big boys on a regular basis.

On August 26, Kash took everything Rhino threw at him and wouldn't back down. Then the cavalry arrived. As members of **The Network** interfered, RVD and **The Sandman** helped out Kash. When the match was over, ECW had a new TV champ.

Just as we were trying to figure out whether his win over Rhino was enough to earn Kash a spot in the Top 10, Rhino won the belt back at ECW's first-ever card in Canada. A two-week reign as ECW TV champ wasn't enough, we decided. We also felt that since Rhino had had a pretty lousy few months, save for his win over Kash in Toronto, he didn't deserve a spot, either.

Besides World champion **Justin Credible**, ECW's only representative in the Top 10 is RVD himself. Whether titles are on the line or not, he just keeps piling up impressive wins.

Where are all the great teams? You don't have to look very carefully at our ratings to figure out that not only does the WWF have better depth in the singles ranks than WCW, but it has a much deeper tag team roster. Four of our top 10 teams this issue are WWF teams.

This is one area in which WCW could use a lot of improvement. At press time, it had very exciting champions in the form of **Rey Misterio Jr.** and **Juventud Guerrera**, but after that, there's … well, a dropoff. **Kronic** is a powerful, intimidating team, but does anyone look forward to a Kronic vs. Rey and Juvi bout? Then you have **Don** and **Ron Harris**, who barely made the list. A feud between the Harrises and Kronic seems pointless. And when the **Insane Clown Posse** is getting a shot at the World tag team title on *Nitro*, you know the WCW tag team roster is weak.

The WWF has a great three-way rivalry going between **Edge** and **Christian**, **The Hardy Boyz**, and **The Dudley Boyz**. When you throw in teams like **Test** and **Albert**, **The Acolytes**, **Lo Down**, **Too Cool**, and even **Kaientai**, you have the potential for exciting matchups galore. If we had to, we could come up with a top 10 featuring just WWF teams.

The Dudley Boyz

That's all for now! If you have any questions or comments regarding our ratings, we want to hear from you. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

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WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. Airplane spin
2. Armbar
3. Armdrag
4. Armlock
5. Arm stretch
6. Arm whip
7. Asian spike
8. Bear hug
9. Biting
10. Body slam
11. Body tackle
12. Chicken wing
13. Choke
14. Claw
15. Clothesline
16. Cross body block
17. Double axehandle
18. Drop kick
19. Eagle split
20. Elbow smash
21. Eye gouge
22. Face rake
23. Fireman's carry ram
24. Flying body press
25. Flying clothesline
26. Flying drop kick
27. Flying elbow drop
28. Flying head butt
29. Flying mare
30. Forearm smash
31. Foreign object
32. Full nelson
33. Giant swing
34. Grapevine
35. Hair pulling
36. Hammerlock
37. Head lock
38. Head stomp
39. Heart punch
40. Hip roll
41. Irish whip
42. Knee drop
43. Leglock
44. Manager interference
45. Monkey flip
46. Overhead toss
47. Pole ram
48. Reverse chinlock
49. Rolling scissors
50. Rope burn
51. Savate kick
52. Scissors grip
53. Shoulder breaker
54. Slingshot
55. Snap mare
56. Step-over toe hold
57. Suplex
58. Surfboard
59. Turnbuckle smash
60. Wristlock

SET-UP HOLDS

61. Abdominal stretch
62. Atomic drop
63. Avalanche
64. Backbreaker
65. Backroll press
66. Belly to belly
67. Big splash
68. Boston crab
69. Brain buster
70. Bulldog
71. Camel clutch
72. Cobra clutch
73. Cradle
74. Crucifix
75. DDT
76. Figure four
77. Flying leg drop
78. Gourd buster
79. Indian death lock
80. Neckbreaker
81. Piledriver
82. Power bomb
83. Power slam
84. Russian sickle
85. Sleeper
86. Slingshot suplex
87. Small package
88. Spine buster
89. Sunset flip
90. Superplex

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❑ *1. Big Ben*

❑ *2. Ace Stevens*

❑ *3. Jaeger van Dorn*

❑ *4. Bodybag Jones*

❑ *5. Wildfire Johnny Rage*

YOUR NAME (PRINT NEATLY)

STREET ADDRESS

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WRESTLER'S NAME (DO NOT USE ANY REAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES)

Wear-Down Holds: Choose 10 of the holds at the left numbered 1-60. Only use a hold once.

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

6_____ 7_____ 8_____ 9_____ 10_____

Set-Up Holds: Choose 5 of the holds at the left numbered 61-90. Only use a hold once.

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

Finishing Hold: Create your own custom final maneuver or choose a hold from our list.

_____

Opponents: Check the box below each wrestler you wish to challenge.

❑ *6. Eric Darkstrom*

❑ *7. Nook the Secret Weapon*

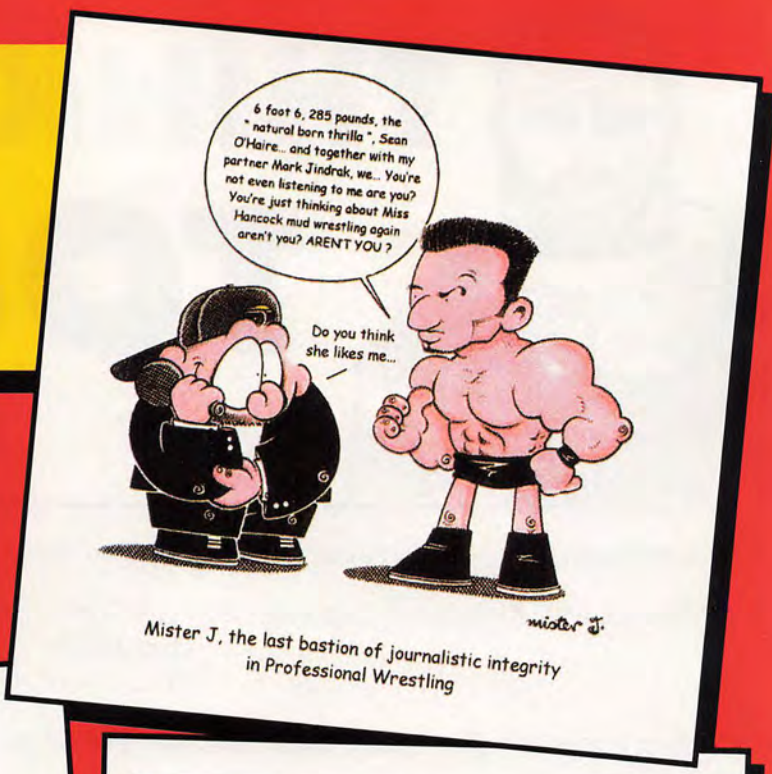
❑ *8. Derek Craven*

❑ *9. El Diablo Sanchez*

❑ *10. Tygar Singh*

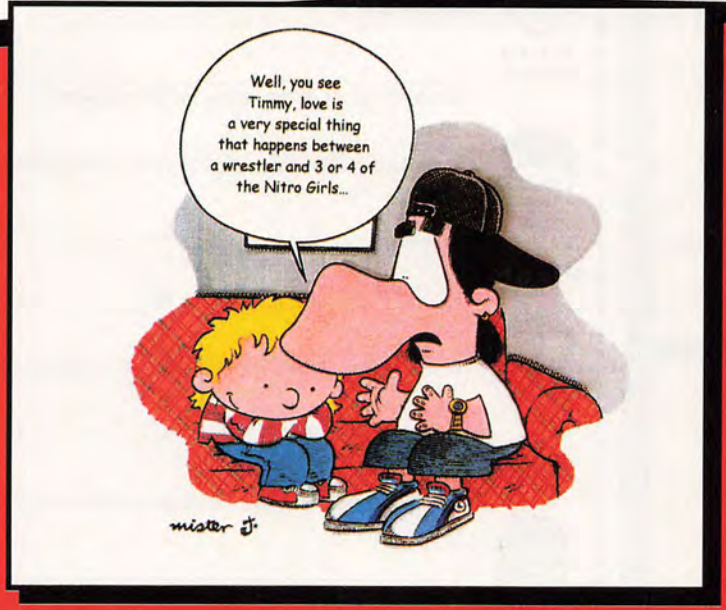
drawing BLOOD

By Jason Conlan


6 foot 6, 285 pounds, the " natural born thrilla ", Sean O'Haire... and together with my partner Mark Jindrak, we... You're not even listening to me are you? You're just thinking about Miss Hancock mud wrestling again aren't you? ARENT YOU ?
Do you think she likes me...
mister J.

Mister J, the last bastion of journalistic integrity in Professional Wrestling

Mister J's Japanese lessons suffer a brief setback after he mistakenly conjugates a verb whilst asking Wing Kanemura for a seat...
BAP
mister J.



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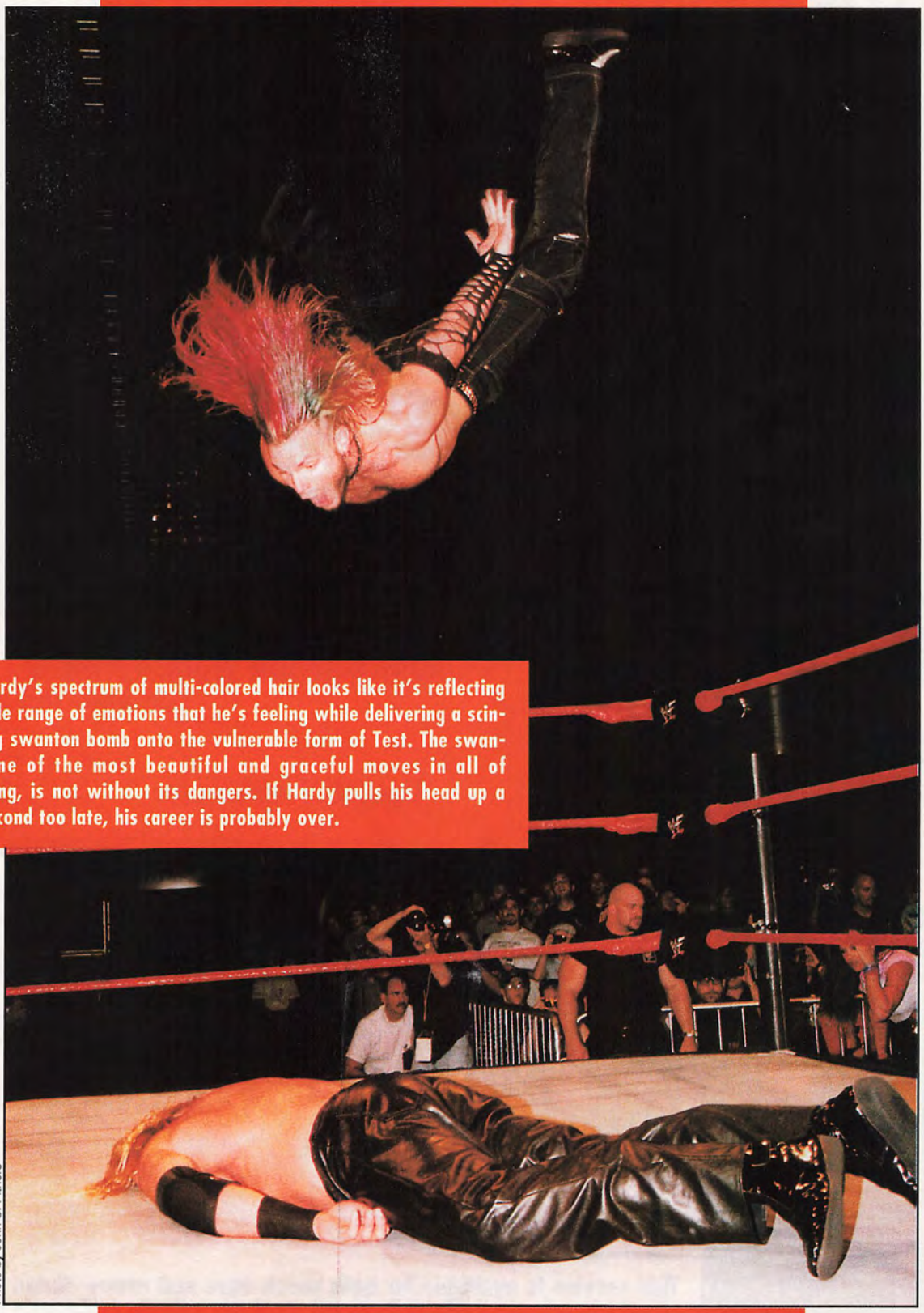

Jeff Hardy's spectrum of multi-colored hair looks like it's reflecting the wide range of emotions that he's feeling while delivering a scintillating swanton bomb onto the vulnerable form of Test. The swanton, one of the most beautiful and graceful moves in all of wrestling, is not without its dangers. If Hardy pulls his head up a half-second too late, his career is probably over.

Photo by John S. Pithers

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www.AnarchyRulz.com
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PlayStation

Sega Dreamcast.

TEEN
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CONTENT RATED BY ESRB

Animated Blood
Strong Language
Mature Sexual Themes

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